

Campbell Ewald Plays Tag with Falcon Hatchling

by Jim Stickford

The squawking started on May 14, a signal that an eyas had hatched.

The eyas – a female baby peregrine falcon – opened its eyes (and beak) when it hatched from the egg laid by a mama falcon on the roof of the Campbell Ewald building in Warren.

Two Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employees were on hand on June 5 to “band” the newly-hatched bird that was living on the ad agency’s roof.

Mary Evans, Campbell Ewald spokesperson, said that the chick hatched out of its egg on May 14. The chick’s parents had set up a nest on the roof of the building and three eggs were laid.

When the eggs were discovered, Campbell Ewald set up a video camera linked to a web site that allowed people to watch the nest and observe nature in action.

“One egg didn’t hatch,” Evans said. “One hatched on May 14 and one hatched on May 15, but that chick didn’t survive.”

Evans said that when they contacted the DNR about the nest, they were told that it wasn’t uncommon for an egg not to hatch and that they shouldn’t be surprised if one of the hatchlings didn’t survive.

Peregrine falcons, as highest-order predators, have always been relatively rare. In the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s, DDT damaged egg shells, further depressing the population. This damage lasts to this day.

“We don’t know the reason why,” Evans said, “but I was told

that the unusual weather we’ve been having might have played a part in one of the hatchlings not surviving.”

Evans said that she and others at Campbell Ewald were amazed at how quickly the surviving hatchling, a female, has grown. They’ve been told that it should be flying by the end of June, only about six weeks after hatching.

“And by the end of August or the beginning of September, it should fly away,” Evans said. “We don’t know where it will go. It might end up in Minnesota or other places far away.

“That’s why the DNR is tagging the bird. It will enable them to track it. That’s important because under state law, these falcons are still considered an endangered species.”

The parents are expected to stay in the area and maybe even nest on top of the building next year and raise another brood.

“I was told that they will probably stay where they are because the Michigan winters aren’t cold enough to drive them away, and the food supply should remain healthy enough during the winter that they will be able to eat,” Evans said.

When asked just what a falcon’s food supply is, she said small birds and animals such as rats and other small rodents.

While some people are distressed to learn that falcons eat pigeons and other small birds, Evans said, “That’s nature.”

In celebration of the hatchling surviving, Campbell Ewald is having a contest to come up with a name, Evans said. The deadline is June 10 by noon.



DNR officials tag the female falcon hatchling nesting on the roof of the Campbell Ewald building across from the GM Tech Center in Warren.

“This has been exciting,” we could share it with the Evans said. “We were glad that world.”

Soldiers Invading Normandy Carried 100 Pounds of Gear

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both Coppens and Kuligowski wore battle uniforms and gear that soldiers would have worn during the first days of the invasion. Coppens was dressed as a paratrooper belonging to the 82nd Airborne Division. Kuligowski was dressed as a BAR gunner in the First Infantry Division.

They talked about the invasion and showed the gear used, including replicas of a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), a garand rifle, handguns, grenades, shovels, food, medical kits, personal items (such as sewing kits and razors), helmets, boots, mess kits, backpacks, ammunition and tobacco.

The ammunition and hand

grenades shown were dummies. Kuligowski said a real BAR gunner could end up carrying 100 pounds of gear into battle.

Coppens said that people are becoming more interested in the war and in preserving history by living it. Kuligowski answered questions about the historical accuracy of movies like “Saving Private Ryan” and “The Longest Day,” saying that Hollywood often filters history through an entertainment lens.

Only veterans of the war would notice things like the uniforms that were used for D-Day were actually only issued after the invasion.

WWII veteran Fitante, in his old uniform with medals, served in the 63rd division in an armored

Roseville Doctor To Present Lecture On Pearl Harbor

The Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor will be discussed by Dr. Donald M. Borsand on Monday, June 24, at 6 p.m. at the Warren Civic Center Library.

Roseville’s Dr. Borsand, an optometrist who has made a life-long study of military history, began his research more than 45 years ago when, as a Wayne State University undergraduate, he majored in history and political science.

His PowerPoint presentation will explore this critical day in our nation’s history, a date that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said “will live in infamy.”

Call 586-574-4564 to sign up for a seat at the presentation.

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