

Falcon Cam 2024 Kicks Off with the Same Pair and a New Camera

The article below was posted on the RVA Falcon Cam on March 1, 2024. Before reading, look over these vocabulary words: [fledge](#), [install](#), [perch](#), [previous](#), [resident](#), [parapet](#), [chick](#) Read and answer the questions.

MARCH 1ST, 2024



The female falcon sits perched on the ledge of the parapet while the male rests in the nest box. Photo taken on 2/26/24.

The wait is over—the Richmond Falcon Cam is live for the 2024 season, and due to some technology updates, the stream is sure to be sharper than ever in 2024! The Falcon Cam comes to you thanks to our partners at Comcast Business, who have generously provided the internet connection that powers the camera since 2017.

As you may recall, the previous camera malfunctioned last year after nearly 10 years of operation. During the off season, we replaced the old equipment with a brand new 4K camera, providing viewers with Ultra-High Definition video as well as infrared technology, which provides a clear look inside the nest box at night. A new microphone was also installed, allowing those tuning in to hear the birds as well as see them.

We're also happy to report that we've been seeing 95/AK (the resident female) and her mate, 59/BM (the resident male) on an almost daily basis throughout February. This pair is entering their fourth nesting season together, having successfully fledged four chicks at this site on an annual basis since 2021. We've been seeing lots of courtship behavior, including head bowing and energetic "ee-chipping" vocalizations from the male. Meanwhile, the female has been spending a lot of time perching near the nest box, a good indication that she is developing eggs! Last year, 95/AK laid her first egg of the season during the overnight hours of March 19. We expect her to follow a similar schedule this year, so we hope to see an egg laid sometime within the third week of March.

As always, we invite you to follow along with us as we cover the events of what will hopefully be another successful season! And remember, if you want to receive falcon updates directly to your inbox, you can join our subscriber list on our [Falcon Cam homepage](#). This page also includes links to our FAQs as well as archived posts that outline the events of previous seasons.

1. Which word below uses the prefix *mal-* in the same way that it is used in the word *malfunctioned* in paragraph 2?
- a. malice b. malnourished c. mall d. malt
2. How long have the current falcon pair used this nesting site?
- a. 1-2 yrs b. 3-4 yrs c. 5+ years d. This is the 1st time this site has been used

3. Read this sentence from paragraph 3: Last year, 95/AK laid her first egg of the season during the overnight hours of March 19.

What time was the first egg most likely to have been laid?

- a. 11:00 am b. noon c. 6:00 pm d. 3:00 am
4. Read this sentence from the caption: The female falcon sits perched on the ledge of the parapet while the male rests in the nest box.
- Which definition matches the way the word *perched* is used above?
- a. (*British*) a measure of volume for stone, about 24 cubic feet (0.7 cubic meters)
- b. To settle or rest in some elevated position
- c. A freshwater fish

5. Which word(s) are an antonym(s) for the word *installed* as it is used in paragraph 2?

a. remove b. build in c. set up

6. Use context clues to determine the meaning of *parapet* as it is used in the caption.

a. A cloth canopy that fills with air and allows something to descend slowly

b. A protective wall or barrier

c. An outstanding example

d. A companion bird

7. Read the sentence from paragraph 2: As you may recall, the previous camera malfunctioned last year after nearly 10 years of operation.

What is a synonym for previous?

- a. prior b. following c. after

8. Which form of the word *install* means to install again?

- a. uninstall b. preinstall c. coinstall d. reinstall

9. Read the following sentence from paragraph 3:

We're also happy to report that we've been seeing 95/AK (the resident female) and her mate, 59/BM (the resident male) on an almost daily basis throughout February.

Which word(s) means the opposite of *resident* as it is used above?

- a. dweller b. migrant c. occupant d. Visitor

10. Read these sentences:

As you may recall, the previous camera malfunctioned last year after nearly 10 years of operation. During the off season, we replaced the old equipment with a brand new 4K camera, providing viewers with Ultra-High Definition video as well as infrared technology, which provides a clear look inside the nest box at night.

Identify the cause and effect. Write C for cause or E for effect.

The old equipment was replaced is the _____.

The previous camera malfunctioned is the _____.