

Pale Male

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

the nest in the first place. Furthermore, Audubon marshaled the support of government officials such as New York City Park's Commissioner Adrian Benepe and Governor George E. Pataki.

The end result, after a meeting between the Audubon Society, Richard Cohen (the Co-op Board Chairman) and City/State environmental officials was that the building agreed to put back the spikes on the ledge, which Pale Male used to hold the nest in place; put some nest material out to help Pale Male rebuild the nest (an activity that Pale Male began immediately after the nest was removed) and make building design adjustments to mitigate concerns of droppings, nest material, pigeon carcasses and feathers falling to the ground. Audubon agreed to work with the building's management agent on these mitigation measures, forward donated services offered and expand the educational effort to promote the importance of raptors residing in an urban setting. The city and state environmental officials agreed to help provide technical support throughout the process.



After a tense week and tough negotiations, a win-win resolution was found. The design of the new structure to hold the nest and mitigate the building residents' concerns can be seen at Audubon's website, <http://palemale.audubon.org/cradle.html>.

There were many heroes in this effort in addition to Pale Male's close followers and fans that have had a special relationship with this Red-Tailed Hawk for years. They include: E.J. McAdams and his board of New York City Audubon, who tirelessly

worked this issue on the ground every day and night; Sean Mahar, Grassroots Coordinator of Audubon New York, who coordinated the petition drive, letter writing campaign and even some local events; John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society, who stepped in at a very critical time of the negotiations to lend his experience and National Audubon Society's standing on the issue and the city parks and state conservation officials who provided valuable technical assistance and support. The media representatives were also heroes, refusing to let the story die until a resolution was found as was a building resident, Mary Tyler Moore, who spoke out against her own Co-op board every day. The Co-op board itself and Board Chair Richard Cohen are to be congratulated for agreeing to reverse their position and co-exist with Pale Male. Finally, there was the spirit of New Yorkers who triumphed as they rallied for the underdog hawk, named Pale Male. Pale Male and his mate Lola refused to be evicted and their stubborn resilience was a major reason why the issue would not go away and why in the end, a solution for all was found.

There are many positives to reflect

on in regard to the Pale Male story and specifically this chapter of the story. Two that are worth emphasizing are the meaning of the incredible support generated by the public for this hawk and the possibilities of conservation action when all levels of Audubon work together.

Regarding the public support, it was symbolic of people's strong concerns and interest in the environment as a whole. Pale Male became larger than simply one Red-Tailed Hawk, but rather represented a vehicle to allow many to express their concerns and love for nature. It was, in fact, a phenomenon.

As for Audubon's conservation possibilities, it proved the theory that the total effort can be truly greater than the sum of its parts. From the local chapter, New York City Audubon to the state office, Audubon New York, to the headquarters and President's office of the National Audubon Society, a seamless campaign went into motion, where each part played to its strengths. It was remarkable.

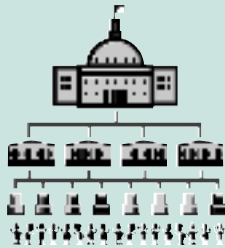
We have Pale Male to thank for all of these results and lessons, and who said this was just a story about a Red-Tailed Hawk who lost his nest one day....



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14

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