

# Coastal Otago falcon news, 21 October 2020

October is getting busy for falcons in Coastal Otago plantation forests. And we have more forests to work in, with the addition of Port Blakely to the project - welcome!

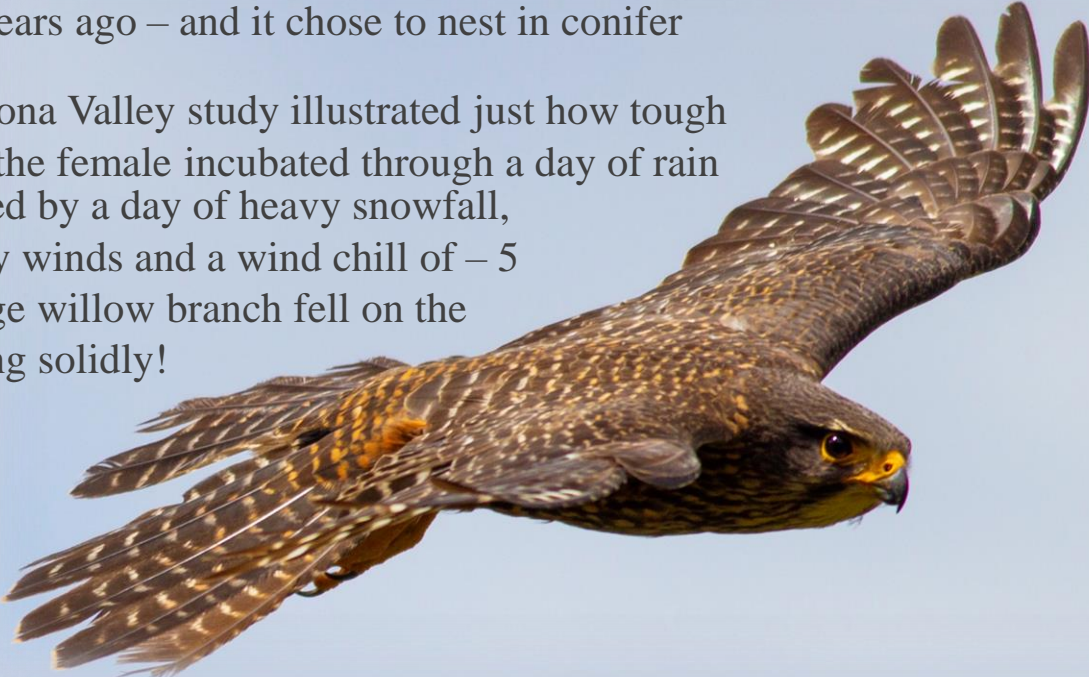
After finding mostly courting pairs in September, we now have seven confirmed nests on the go, with game cameras on them. Most have just had eggs laid and one has three very young chicks. The photo to the right shows the young chicks, in their scrape under a slash pile.

We've been keeping a close eye on falcon activity around several harvesting operations, before land-prep movements and the like. Many thanks for your continued efforts to keep us posted on these movements.

And we're resighting birds banded as chicks, with one nesting ~20 km from where it was banded as a chick four years ago – and it chose to nest in conifer

Lastly, a nest from our Cardrona Valley study illustrated just how tough falcons are. With zero cover the female incubated through a day of rain and surface flooding, followed by a day of heavy snowfall, then a day of strong southerly winds and a wind chill of – 5 Celsius. Five days later a large willow branch fell on the nest, and still she is incubating solidly!

- Graham and Kalinka at Parker Conservation



Manukaawa nest



Cardrona Valley nest – zero cover!

Photo Ross Curtis