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## **Esteban Colbert Soars Mightily Over San José** *City Hall's Newest Peregrine Falcon Named for Comedy Central Star*

*SAN JOSÉ, CALIF* – Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert has been awarded a top honor from San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley – a treasured namesake. Falcon fans have dubbed the newest male peregrine falcon living atop San José City Hall “Esteban Colbert” after the star of “The Colbert Report.”

Opening up their rooftop nesting box to worldwide viewers of the FalconCam, the San José City Hall Peregrine Falcons have become reality show superstars over the past two years. Now beginning her third season, falcon mother, Clara, has another new man in her life and, based on field reports, is expected to soon make him a father.

As it became apparent that last year’s tiercel (male falcon) Carlos was not returning for a second season, falcon fans have been watching the FalconCam to see if a new beau would attempt to woo Clara.

“I’m delighted that Esteban Colbert appeared at City Hall this week, and that he and Clara are hitting it off,” said San José Mayor Chuck Reed, who press reports have noted is an avid fan of “The Colbert Report.” “Like the City Hall falcons, the original Colbert has proven that with primitive instincts and sharp talons, anyone can survive in modern society.”

Peregrine Falcons, regarded as the fastest animal in the world with a recorded speed of up to 240 mph, had only two mating pairs remaining in the California wild in 1970. Today, due in large part to extraordinary conservation work by the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, there are more than 250 nesting pairs, including those at San José City Hall. Carlos and Clara had three chicks in 2008, while the previous year Clara and her first mate José Fernando had three as well.

Stephen Colbert is a writer and comedian who began his career in Chicago Improvisational Comedy. A correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” from 1997, Colbert became host of “The Colbert Report” in 2005. Colbert has received a series of top honors, including being named one of the most influential people by both *New York* and *Time* magazines.

The FalconCam can be viewed online on the City of San José website at [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov) or on the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group website at [www.scpbrg.org](http://www.scpbrg.org)