Draft Detective

Edit an informational draft for standard written conventions.

8.P.EICC.4.h "Edit the text, ensuring it adheres to the conventions of written language. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the four convention errors in the passage, then write the correct form above each error.

Peregrine Falcons in Cities

1 Peregrine falcons are among the worlds fastest birds. During a hunting dive, called a stoop, they can exceed 200 miles per hour. Their pointed wings and strong feet help them catch other birds in midair. By the mid-1900s, some populations had become rare because of DDT, a pesticide that weakened eggshells. After DDT was banned in the United States in 1972, recovery programs helped many falcons return to places where they had disappeared for decades.

2 Cities can now provide surprising falcon habitat. Tall buildings resemble cliffs, and ledges offer sheltered places for nests. A pair may raise chicks on a bridge or office tower, while hunting pigeons and other prey nearby. Volunteers often watch nest sites, they record when eggs hatch and when young birds leave the nest. This information helps scientists learn whether a local population is growing over several breeding seasons, an important measure of success for conservation.

3 City residents can support falcons without approaching a nest. A falcons nest needs space, especially during the breeding season. If you see a young falcon on the ground keep people and pets away and call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or local animal agency. Young birds sometimes leave the nest before they can fly well, so a nearby adult may still be caring for them. Never feed a falcon because human food can harm it and close contact can make the bird less wary of people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write the correct form of the phrase “the worlds fastest birds.”

2. Revise the sentence beginning “Volunteers often watch nest sites” to fix its comma splice.

3. Correct the possessive noun in “A falcons nest needs space.”

4. What punctuation belongs after “ground” in the sentence that begins “If you see a young falcon”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence informational note about an animal that lives near people. Include one possessive noun and one introductory phrase followed by a comma, then edit every sentence for capitals, punctuation, spelling, and complete sentences.

ANSWER KEY # Draft Detective

GRADE 8 · 8.P.EICC.4.h

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the four convention errors in the passage, then write the correct form above each error. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write the correct form of the phrase "the worlds fastest birds."	**the world's fastest birds**
2	Revise the sentence beginning "Volunteers often watch nest sites" to fix its comma splice.	**Volunteers often watch nest sites. They record when eggs hatch and when young birds leave the nest.**
3	Correct the possessive noun in "A falcons nest needs space."	**A falcon's nest needs space.**
4	What punctuation belongs after "ground" in the sentence that begins "If you see a young falcon"?	**A comma belongs after "ground" because it ends the opening dependent clause.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, little brown bats may fly over neighborhoods as they search for insects. A bat's wings are thin membranes stretched over long finger bones. The animals often rest in sheltered spaces during the day.

Accept equivalent corrections that preserve the passage's meaning. For the comma splice, a period, semicolon, or comma with a coordinating conjunction is acceptable.