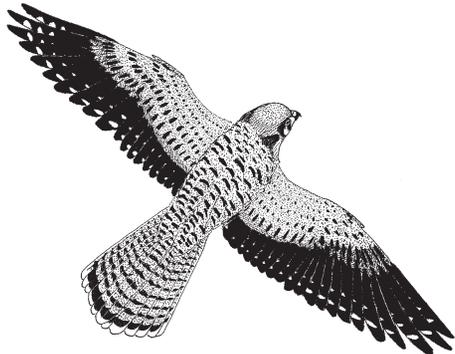


The time for conservation and study is before a species becomes endangered! Play a role in a worthwhile conservation effort.



**For Your Donation of \$100 You Will Receive:**

- Official adoption certificate
- Report of nesting activity and an update on the overall Nestbox Program
- Free kestrel gift for each new box adopted



**Adopt a Kestrel Nestbox**

Enclose a minimum contribution of \$100 and this form for each adoption. Fax or mail to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

I/we would like to adopt a kestrel box:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to adopt a kestrel box as a gift for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Send adoption package to:  me  gift recipient

Payment by:  Check (made payable to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary)

Mastercard  VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

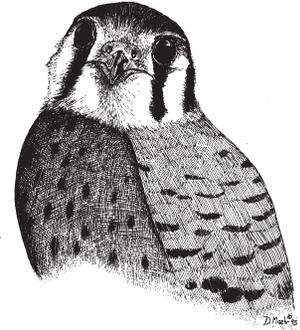


**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association**  
1700 Hawk Mountain Road  
Kempton, PA 19529-9379  
Info line: 610-756-6000  
Office: 610-756-6961  
Fax: 610-756-4468

[www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org)



**Adopt a Kestrel Nestbox**



**Help Sponsor a Hawk Mountain Kestrel Study**

As part of long-term research studies, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has been studying the breeding, wintering, and migratory habits of American kestrels for more than 50 years. This small falcon is an excellent bioindicator of ecosystem health, helping us learn more about how farmland habitats function.

Human-altered habitats often eliminate the trees and snags that provide natural cavities for nesting birds. Artificial nestboxes can provide much-needed "nurseries" that are readily used by American kestrels. When boxes are made available, the local population of kestrels grows.

More than 200 kestrel nestboxes have been placed within a 25-mile radius of Hawk Mountain. Each year, boxes are cleaned and monitored for signs of nesting activity. When nestlings are about two weeks old, they are sexed, banded and counted as a measure of kestrel nesting success.

Information on nesting success is shared with kestrel biologists at sites in Canada and elsewhere in the United States. In addition to the Nestbox Program, a recent Hawk Mountain study of overwintering kestrels is now yielding insights into the winter ecology of the birds.

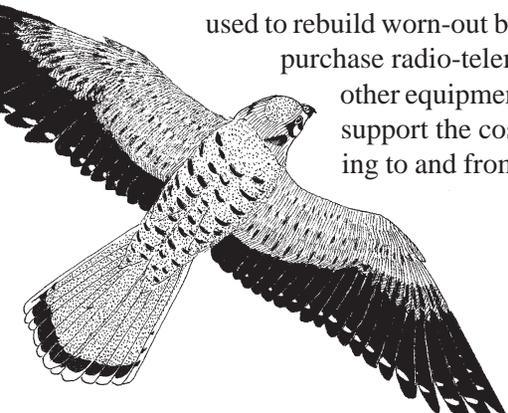
Hawk Mountain biologists report that, although once common across farmlands and fields, breeding pairs have plummeted 50 percent between 1998 and 2004.

Alarmed by the sharp and steady decrease in populations, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary designed a campaign to educate rural landowners on the importance of nestbox placement. Since 2004, the Sanctuary has distributed more than 20,000 copies of nestbox-building instructions.

In addition, an Adopt-A-Kestrel-Nestbox Program for Pennsylvania School Children takes a hands-on approach to teaching students wildlife ecology. Using a kestrel nestbox, students practice real wildlife biology and natural resource management, while helping collect important ecological information. Teacher materials include an instructional video and classroom poster.

## How YOU Can Help

You can become an important partner in this field research effort. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is inviting you or your organization to adopt one or more kestrel nestboxes. Your contribution will be used to rebuild worn-out boxes, purchase radio-telemetry and other equipment, and support the cost of traveling to and from boxes.



## American Kestrel

*“The Hover Hawk”*

### Latin name: *Falco sparverius*

The kestrel is the smallest American falcon. This colorful raptor, a diminutive, scaled-down version of its larger and more powerful cousin, the peregrine falcon, is common in both North and South America. The word kestrel originated in Europe, and is thought to have been taken from the English “coistrel,” meaning peasant or lower class. During medieval times, when falcons were used for hunting, commoners used the kestrel; peregrine falcons were reserved for kings and nobles.

### Field Identification:

Blue-jay size. Head is slate blue on top, with a rufous red crown patch and a black diagonal “mustache” bar below eye. Similar bars on back of head resemble a pair of eyes, discouraging predator attacks from behind. Males are more brightly marked than females, and have blue-grey, black-spotted wings, whitish to deep rufous breasts, and rufous tails. Females show dark banding on wings and tails, and streaks on breasts. Flight characterized by 7 to 12 short, rapid strokes with pointed wings, a short glide, then another set of strokes.

**Call:** “Killy-killy-killy” when alarmed.

### Habitat:

Open fields, meadows, wetlands, and forest edges in urban and suburban settings.

### Prey and Hunting:

Kestrels feed on rodents, insects, small birds, worms, grubs and amphibians. The kestrel is often called the “hover hawk” because it can hover into the wind while rapidly flapping its wings. Hovering allows a kestrel to maintain a stationary position aloft, from which it can scan the ground for prey. When there is no wind, hovering is too energy-expensive. Kestrels also perch on any elevated object, such as trees, buildings, and utility lines and poles, to search for prey.

### Mating and Nesting:

A tree cavity or nestbox is chosen in late April or early May. The male may put on an aerial courtship display of steep climbs and dives, and bring the female gifts of freshly killed prey. Four to five brownish, spotted eggs are laid in an unlined nest. While brooding the eggs, the female is fed by the male. Chicks hatch in about 28 days, and fledge about 30 days after hatching.

### Migration:

Kestrels are partially migratory. Northern birds seem to migrate farther (up to 2,000 miles) south than their southern relatives, which may migrate short distances, or not at all. Females migrate earlier and winter farther south than males.

Download a copy of the **American Kestrel Conservation Status Report** at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org) -- Click “Education” and “Resouces for Learning”