

Girl Scout Troop 82405 Bronze Award Project 2025

The American Kestrel population has been declining significantly due to loss of habitat and other factors. Since the 1960s the kestrel populations in North America had declined by nearly 50 percent and as high as 93 percent in some local areas. Kestrels are seen in pastures and parkland. As these areas are developed, the habitat is decreasing. We need kestrels because they act as natural pest control. Eating mice and small animals. They are the smallest falcon in North America. Measuring 8-11 inches, with wingspan of 18-20 inches and weigh about 3.5-5 oz. Kestrels have remarkably keen eyesight even in poor light, allowing them to hunt almost unit dark. They hunt grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, voles, mice, shrews, lizards, snakes, toads, frogs and more. They fly at 60 miles per hour. Kestrels are known to be very smart birds.



Our troop built four kestrel nesting boxes using New Zealand pine wood, weather resistant screws and hinges. The boxes are 26 inches tall and nine inches wide. The hole needs to be big enough for a kestrel to enter but small enough predators can't get inside. Ours have a squirrel and pest deterrent hanging below the box on the metal pole. The nesting box needs to be 10-30 feet high facing in southern direction to keep strong wind out.

AMERICAN KESTREL

SMALLEST FALCON IN NORTH AMERICA
The American Kestrel is the tiniest falcon in North America and can fly up to 60 mph, measuring around 9-12 inches in length.

DIET
Kestrels primarily hunt insects (like grasshoppers, beetles, and crickets) and small mammals (such as voles, mice, and shrews), using their sharp vision and quick reflexes to catch prey mid-flight.

UNIQUE CALL
Their call sounds like a sharp "kleeek," which is often used to communicate with other kestrels or alert them to danger.

CONSERVATION STATUS
While they are not considered endangered, habitat loss and pesticide use can negatively impact kestrel populations.

HUNTING STYLE
Known for their "hovering" flight, kestrels can remain stationary in the air while spotting prey below them.

Bronze Award Project
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 82405
Franklin Township, New Jersey
Four kestrel nesting boxes were placed in the surrounding area. Placing these boxes will:

1. Increase nesting sites
2. Protect against predators
3. Boost local populations
4. Support pest control



We have placed our boxes at Windy acres because it has a lot of open grass and farm land. Kestrels like to live near power lines and trees, they use them to perch when hunting. Our boxes are places in ideal locations in the Windy acres park.

Thank you, Clinton Township, for allowing us to help the Kestrels in your beautiful park.

Girl scout Troop 82405
Franklin Township, NJ





BUILDING THE HOUSES

