

AMERICAN KESTREL

CONTACT US TODAY

Length
8.7–12.2 in
22–31 cm
Wingspan
20.1–24 in
51–61 cm
Weight
2.8–5.8 oz
80–165 g
Relative Size
Mourning
Dove-
sized



Female American
Kestrel

- North America's smallest falcon
- Males have slate blue head and wings with a rusty red back and tail
- Females have rusty red head, backs, wings and tails
- Can be found perched on poles or wires or hovering in place while hunting
- Feed on mostly insects and small mammals
- Nest in old woodpecker nests, natural tree hollows, and nest boxes
- Call is a shrill *killy-killy-killy* or *klee-klee-klee*

Calvert County Natural Resources

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Just south of Prince Frederick, turn right onto Sixes Road (Rt. 506) Look for sign and turn left on Gray's Rd. The entrance will be on your right about one quarter mile



AMERICAN
KESTREL NEST
BOX PROGRAM



KESTREL NEST BOX PROGRAM



Male American Kestrel in flight

Calvert County Natural Resources is participating in an exciting new research and conservation program called the American Kestrel Partnership, coordinat-

ed by The Peregrine Fund, an international non-profit organization committed to the conservation of birds of prey worldwide. The American Kestrel is North America's smallest and most colorful falcon. Unfortunately, kestrel populations are declining across many regions of North America. As a participant in the Partnership, Calvert County Natural Resources is building and installing nest boxes locally to provide breeding habitat for this cavity nesting species. In addition to building nest boxes, we are periodically monitoring the boxes to collect data for the Partnership's research program. This program is funded by Calvert County Natural Resources.

How You can Help

We are currently seeking Calvert County landowners who would like to have a nest box installed on their property.

Property requirements are:

- Several acres of open fields, grasslands or sparse woodland.
- Barn/building or pole to mount boxes 10-20 feet high
- Access to nest box for monitoring purposes



Kestrel nest box installed on a barn in Calvert County

Interested in building boxes for the program?
Let us know so we can send you approved plans.

Benefits of Kestrels

- Will consume many pests that eat crops
- Using wildlife to help control pests can cut down on pesticide use, improve water quality, save time, supply important habitat, and provide viewing enjoyment.
- Although many raptor species will hunt on agricultural land, nesting pairs will focus hunting near the nests and will capture increased amounts of rodent prey for their growing chicks



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