



Kestrel

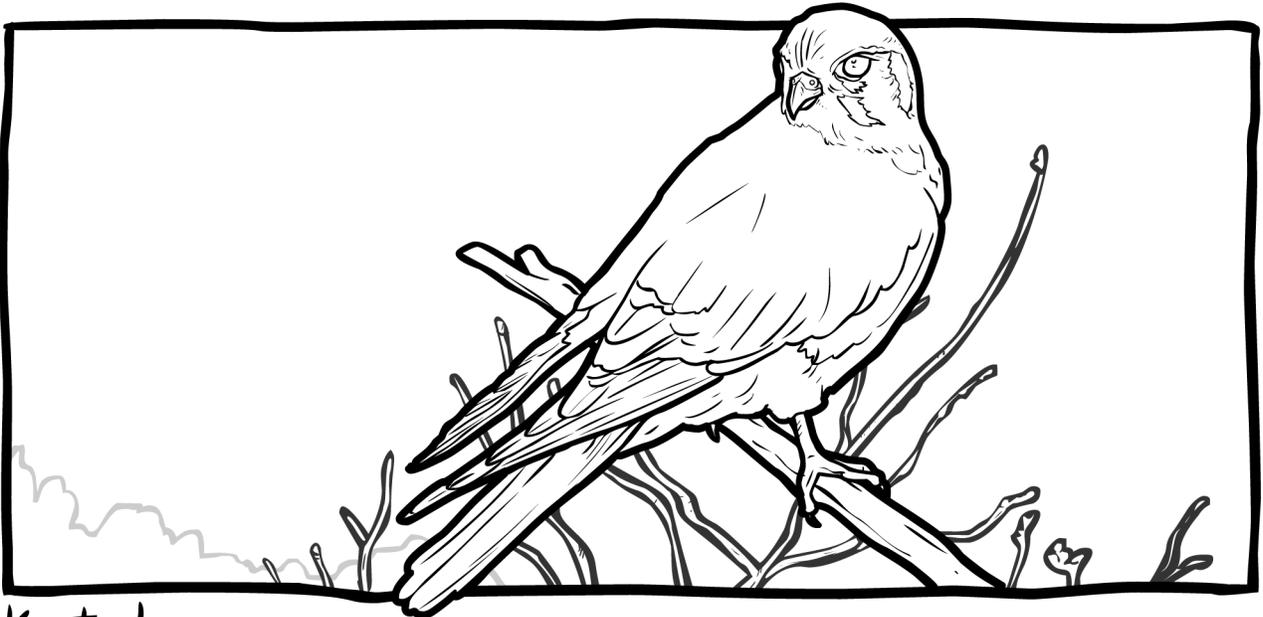
# American Kestrel *(Falco sparverius)*

## Instant ID

- A small falcon up to nine inches long with a 22 inch wingspan
- Has a rust-colored back and tail with a light belly
- Head has a white face with a darker cap and “tear drop” dark spot under the eye
- Females have black-barred backs, wings and tails and rust-colored spots on their chests
- Males are smaller and have black spots on their chests, solid tails and blue wings

## Native Niches

- Found in fields, prairies and the edges of forests throughout much of North America and South America
- Nests in tree cavities (holes)



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# American Kestrel *(Falco sparverius)*

## Favorite Foods

- Eats insects and small mammals, reptiles and birds

## Critter Characteristics

- Sees in ultraviolet (light beyond human range)
- Smallest falcon native to North America
- Sparrow hawk is one of its common names
- Females are larger than males which may reduced competition while hunting
- “Eye spots” on back of head are thought to deter predators
- Often eaten by larger raptors (birds-of-prey with talons)

## Population Protection

- As a cavity nester, it will use nesting boxes if provided