



Position Title: American Kestrel Conservation Intern

Purpose: Over the last few decades, populations of America's smallest falcon, the American Kestrel, show declines across much of North America. Our long-term population monitoring efforts seek to understand factors impacting kestrels including, but not limited to: urbanization, climate change, and contaminants. We monitor Kestrel populations in northern Utah, in Northern Idaho/eastern Washington, and southern Arizona. The information we need requires frequent visits to approximately 600 nest boxes and other known non-box nest locations during the breeding season to determine use, nesting outcome, and parent ID.

Location:

Northern Utah Study Cluster: from N. Ogden to Provo along the west side of the Wasatch Range, and the Park City/Heber area on the east side

Key Responsibilities:

- Help, communicate with, and coordinate community scientist volunteers to ensure their needs and project research goals are met
- Maintain and document nestbox condition and log visits digitally
- Visit and look inside assigned boxes (used and unused) every 7-10 days across breeding season
- Document observations during visits as they happen, or day of using digital data entry platform
- Record # eggs, # nestlings, # of fledged young for nests in assigned boxes and non-box nests as found
- Use a spotting scope to document band status of adult Kestrels
- Estimate age of nestling kestrels
- Assist with trapping and banding adult and nestling kestrels and owls
- Assist with collection of feather and blood samples
- Assist with deployment, recovery, and maintenance of archival GPS tags
- Communicate concerns or issues with project technicians or supervisory biologists as they arise -including ability to continue monitoring, land access, safety issues, or interesting observations.
- Keep track of hours and mileage
- Represent HWI and its efforts in a positive, professional, and courteous manner while in the field
- Design and complete (with the help of supervisory biologists) own small research effort within larger study system
- Share experiences, content, and findings from the field through blog posts, images, and by participating in a symposium

Reports to:

Supervisory Biologists: Dave Oleyar, doleyar@hawkwatch.org and Jesse Watson, jwatson@hawkwatch.org

Kestrel Research Technicians: Jessica Taylor, jtaylor@hawkwatch.org and Jennifer Bridgeman, jbridgeman@hawkwatch.org



Length of Appointment: The season runs from 1 March through 30 July. Full season commitment preferred, but shorter appointments may be possible

Time Commitment: Full season is 22 weeks, weekly time commitment varies based on stage of season. At least one day off per week, some work will take place on weekends. Shared housing may be available for those that don't live locally.

Qualifications:

- Complete or near complete BS in biology, ecology, environmental science, or related field
- Ability to safely drive HWI vehicle and occasionally use own transportation for field work (mileage reimbursed when personal vehicle used)
- Ability to carry and climb a ladder to install, look inside boxes using either a ladder or camera/pole setup (limited # available for checkout)
- Ability to digitally log data, either from the field in real time or at home at the end of the day
- Willingness and ability to follow federal, local, and HWI COVID safety protocols, including properly wearing masks and social distancing, both while working and off duty
- Ability to help organize, and track nest status and project needs across the season

Support: We hold an online orientation session at the beginning of the season (late Feb) where project goals and protocols will be addressed. Additionally, a Kestrel Studies Field Manual with images and protocols will be sent to all participants. The HWI American Kestrel Studies Facebook group is a great place to share findings, ask questions, and interact with other HWI Kestrel Community Scientists. HWI staff are available to answer questions, meet in the field as needed.

Benefits: Gain valuable research and communication skills and experience as part of long-term community science research program. Enjoy a front row seat to falcon natural history and nesting ecology while contributing to kestrel conservation locally and across North America. Internships come with a \$600/week stipend.

