



East Kentucky Power Cooperative

Member Spotlight | 2023

American Kestrel Nest Boxes

East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) has been a member of Kentucky Excellence in Environmental Leadership (KY EXCEL) since 2009. EKPC (NAICS 221118) generates and transmits power to 16 owner-member cooperatives serving 87 Kentucky counties. Each co-op distributes the power to people in their individual service territory, thereby powering the lives of 1.1 million people. Along with the people they serve, EKPC values Kentucky's natural resources. Therefore, they are involved in multiple environmental stewardship efforts. As part of their KY EXCEL membership requirements and commitment to the environment, EKPC proposed to establish nesting boxes for the American Kestrel.

Goal #1



Biodiversity

As North America's littlest falcon, the kestrel packs a predator's fierce intensity into its small body. Hunting for insects and other small prey in open territory, kestrels perch on wires or poles, or hover facing into the wind, flapping and adjusting their long tails to stay in place.

Goal #2



Wildlife Management Conservation Support

Over the years, data collected from bird counts and nest box monitoring programs have shown a steep decline in their populations. Feeding on grasshoppers and other insects, the use of pesticides by humans have depleted the birds' insect-heavy prey base.

Goal #3



Additionally, a lack of suitable nesting cavities due to human activities have severely limited Kestrel numbers. Depending upon natural or man-made cavities for successful nesting – it will not reproduce if a suitable cavity is not available.

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

300 Sower Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601
Assistance Hotline: envhelp@ky.gov | 502-782-6189





Project Investments



**\$1,500
Spent**



**20
Work-Hours
Spent**



**5
People
Participated**

Project Results



**30
Acres of
Wildlife Habitat
Managed/Improved**



**6
Nest Boxes
Installed and
Monitored**

The American Kestrel, also called the sparrow hawk, is the smallest and most common falcon in North America.

However, American Kestrels will use nest boxes of the right size, placed in suitable habitat. Therefore, the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR) is working on efforts to help this species recover by installing nest boxes across Kentucky. Working with the DFWR, EKPC constructed and installed four nest boxes for American Kestrels at the JK Smith Station and two nest boxes at EKPC's Headquarters location near Winchester, KY.

EKPC's Smith Station already had several Kestrels on site. Competition for limited suitable nesting sites can become so intense that these falcons may share their space. In an effort to increase the existing populations and provide alternative nesting sites, EKPC added six nest boxes in open areas around Smith Station and Headquarters. The nesting boxes were installed in sustainable habitat in both upland and lowland locations.

EKPC plans to monitor the nest boxes in the coming years for usage, fledglings, and number of kestrels on site. Through these efforts, EKPC is managing roughly 30 acres or approximately 1,300,000 square feet of breeding habitat for the American Kestrel.