

American Kestrel Activity Book



The Raptor Center

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American Kestrel Coloring Page



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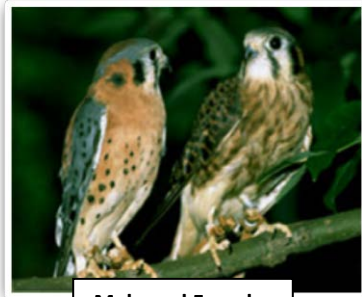
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American Kestrel Quick Facts Sheet



The American Kestrel's scientific name is *Falco sparverius*.

Appearance: Like all falcons, the American Kestrel has dark eyes, a notched beak, and unfeathered legs. Male and female have different plumage (different feather colors and patterns), which is an unusual trait for raptors. The male has a rusty back, blue wings, and a rusty-colored tail with a black band. The female's wings, back, and tail are rusty with black barring. The top of both the male's and female's head is blue with rusty caps. Both sexes have a dark vertical line running through the eye. This "malar stripe" helps keep the sun out of their eyes.



Male and Female

Fun Facts! The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon found in North America. It weighs between 2.8 and 5.8 ounces (less than a stick of butter!). It's the smallest falcon in the world after the Seychelles Kestrel.

Sound: They are noisy birds that use a high pitched, rapid "ki-ki-ki-ki" alarm call, as well as a slightly longer "klee-klee-klee" call.

Flight: American Kestrels typically hunt for their prey in open territory. They hover facing into the wind, using quick flaps and adjustments of their long tails to stay in place.

What it eats: American Kestrels feed on insects like grasshoppers, beetles, and dragonflies that they catch on the ground or in the air. They also eat spiders, butterflies, moths, small snakes, lizards, frogs, and small rodents like voles and mice. They will also eat small birds.

Fun Facts! Unlike humans, American Kestrels can see ultraviolet light. With this ability they can see the trails of urine that mice and other small mammals leave as they run along the ground. These bright paths can lead the kestrel to a meal!

How it hunts: American Kestrels hunt for insects and other small prey in open territory. They perch on wires or poles and or hover. When perched, they bob their tails to help them balance. They also can keep their heads still while their bodies move so they can stay focused on prey.

Where you will see one: They live in many places across North America. American kestrels are found in a variety of habitats, including parks, suburbs, open fields, forest edges, alpine zones, and deserts. They need open space for hunting, perches to hunt from, a sufficient food supply, and cavities for nesting. They nest in holes in trees, artificial nest boxes, or small spaces in buildings.



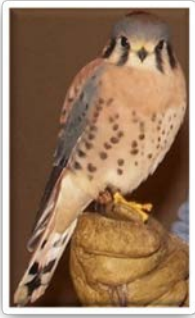
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American Kestrel Word Find

Find the words forward, backward, or diagonally!

O	H	N	F	O	G	Q	S	E	K	B	S	T	R	E	R	X	D	S	X	Z	T	J
N	U	G	Y	U	N	J	V	B	A	P	H	D	T	R	E	R	X	D	S	X	Z	T
C	B	N	K	L	X	C	N	X	D	C	T	U	R	K	I	G	Q	A	D	G	O	S
P	A	O	V	T	E	F	L	E	R	M	O	P	E	N	F	I	E	L	D	S	P	R
A	W	T	G	R	B	O	G	F	S	A	M	T	B	S	B	E	D	U	G	V	X	E
L	F	C	X	A	Y	N	F	E	K	T	A	B	Y	V	B	A	P	N	V	G	P	P
N	D	H	H	V	M	F	C	O	N	E	L	E	R	M	E	H	E	F	V	I	I	P
N	R	E	I	I	T	B	A	E	Q	O	G	F	S	A	I	M	H	L	R	U	J	C
G	Q	D	N	O	B	Y	W	L	A	C	F	E	K	T	R	W	X	T	U	J	C	H
B	I	B	T	L	Z	M	V	B	C	F	C	O	N	E	E	U	S	O	H	N	F	S
R	D	E	H	E	P	L	N	X	D	O	R	J	B	N	L	R	I	K	M	S	S	S
D	T	A	A	T	W	C	L	E	R	R	S	W	J	Y	A	V	B	A	P	B	P	A
L	A	K	A	L	B	V	G	F	S	E	O	P	X	L	P	N	X	D	C	C	C	R
C	A	N	H	I	U	T	F	E	K	S	H	C	A	Z	W	L	E	R	M	A	M	G
M	B	K	M	G	C	W	C	O	N	T	W	M	C	R	B	G	F	S	A	V	F	S
P	I	K	I	H	C	O	R	J	B	E	H	E	F	E	V	F	E	K	T	I	A	F
M	A	D	C	T	R	J	F	S	T	D	M	H	L	K	G	E	B	V	F	T	R	U
S	V	R	H	S	F	S	A	D	I	G	B	E	D	N	R	R	R	B	M	Y	Z	N
S	L	C	A	X	A	D	U	C	Y	E	B	A	P	H	M	E	B	I	A	N	H	E
B	L	Y	F	A	L	C	O	N	L	S	X	D	C	V	L	R	U	R	U	E	N	R
H	M	O	U	C	N	H	T	H	E	Q	E	R	M	E	E	E	C	D	W	S	C	E
Y	O	I	S	E	I	L	F	N	O	G	A	R	D	A	L	S	F	J	R	T	N	U
M	P	V	A	K	L	R	H	E	W	S	L	O	P	T	E	S	D	S	T	E	Y	S
L	L	E	E	Q	C	C	A	T	O	S	O	N	G	O	P	A	X	O	I	R	C	B
C	O	U	W	R	M	S	E	L	U	L	I	H	W	N	L	G	R	Y	E	C	A	L

Falco Sparverius	Grasshoppers	Hover
Notched Beak	Dragonflies	Open Fields
Malar Stripe	Moths	Forest Edges
Falcon	Ultraviolet Light	Cavity Nester



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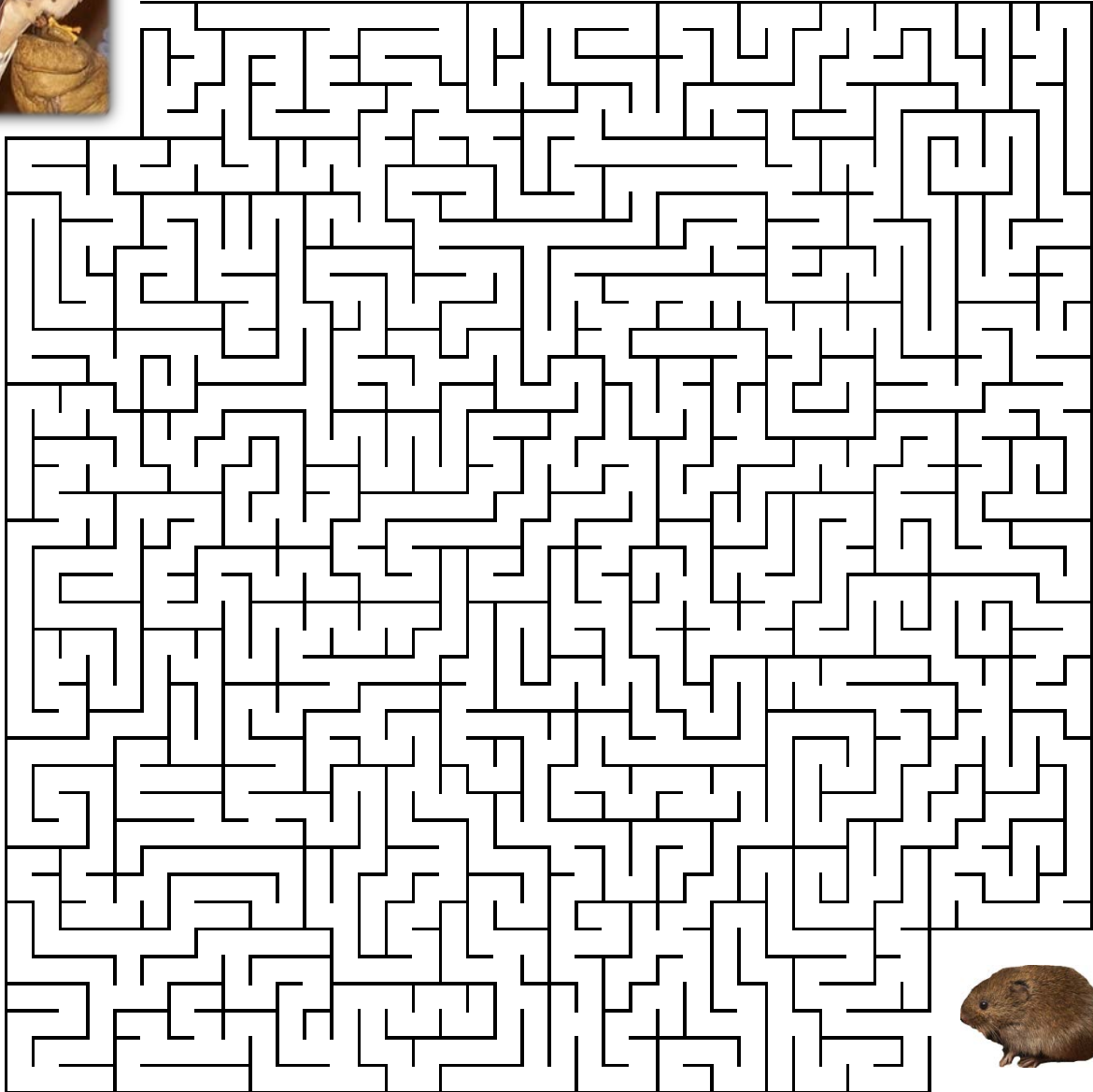
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American Kestrel Maze



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American Kestrel Hidden Message

Use the key below to learn a fun fact about the American Kestrel's name.



4 12 11 2 26 11 5 11

16 25 5 18 11 5 17 2

21 23 25 26 23 3 9

9 7 3 5 5 25 26

12 3 26 21 9

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	15	20	14	11	16	8	12	6	1	21	17	18	23	25	7	22	5	9	4	19	13	26	24	2	10



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American Kestrel Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below to learn about the size of the American Kestrel.

E T Y H R A E

— — — — — — — —

O A T B U H T E

— — — — — — — —

Z E I S F O A

— — — — — — — —

B I R N O

— — — — —



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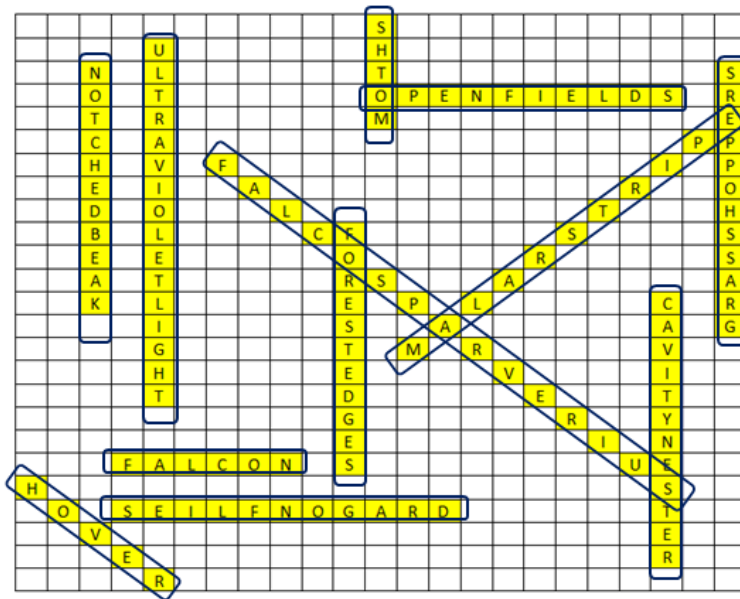
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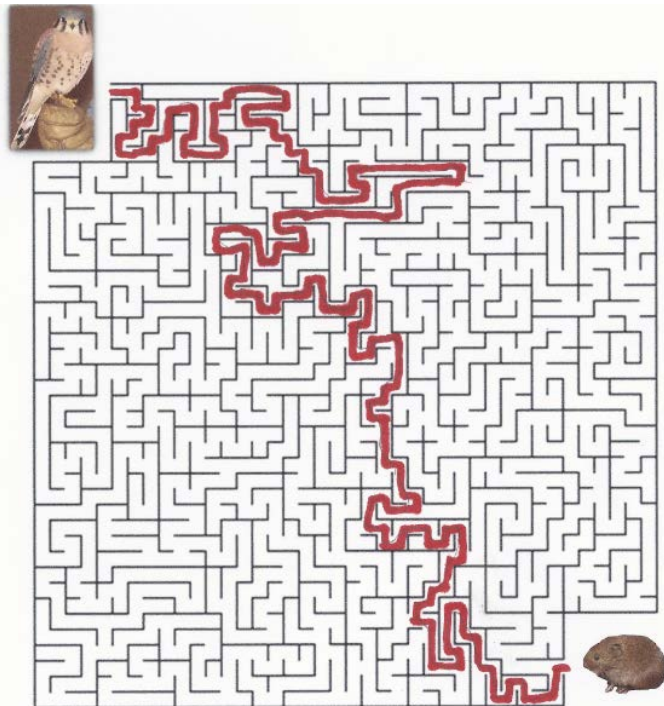
American Kestrel Activity Book - Answer Key



Word Find



Maze



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Hidden Message

<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Y</u>		<u>W</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>
4	12	11	2		26	11	5	11
<u>F</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Y</u>	
16	25	5	18	11	5	17	2	
<u>K</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	
21	23	25	26	23		3	9	
<u>S</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>W</u>		
9	7	3	5	5	25	26		
<u>H</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>S</u>				
12	3	26	21	9				



Word Scramble

<u>E</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>H</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>	
<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Y</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	
<u>O</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>U</u>		<u>H</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>E</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>T</u>		<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>
<u>Z</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>S</u>		<u>F</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>A</u>	
<u>S</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>E</u>		<u>O</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	
<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>				
<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>				



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