



Making **Kestrels** Our **City Bird**: A proposal for a sustainable ecosystem and community.



Aamir Tinwala



About Me

- Aamir Tinwala
- Passion Project: Backyard Bird Project | Conservation for Coppell
- Background in bird conservation efforts



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Kestrels and Their Importance

What are kestrels and why are they so important to our ecosystem?



Kestrels and Their Importance

The American Kestrel

Small bird of prey from the Falcon family

Natural Pest Control

Kestrels feed on unwanted rodents and pests, helping to keep insect population in balance. This not only helps alleviate problems in a suburb like ours, but also in farms with pest problems.





Threats to Kestrels

How are Kestrels negatively affected by humans and the ecosystem



Threats to Kestrels

Habitat Loss

Urbanization, Deforestation, and Agricultural Expansion all contribute to decreasing the natural habitat, which kestrels thrive in.

The main reason of kestrel population decline is due to deforestation.

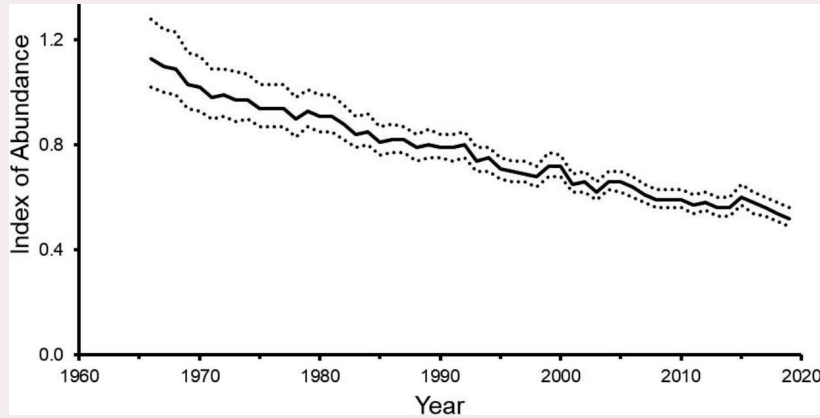
Pesticides and Climate Change

Pesticide use contaminates the food chain, eventually starving kestrels by eliminating their food supply.

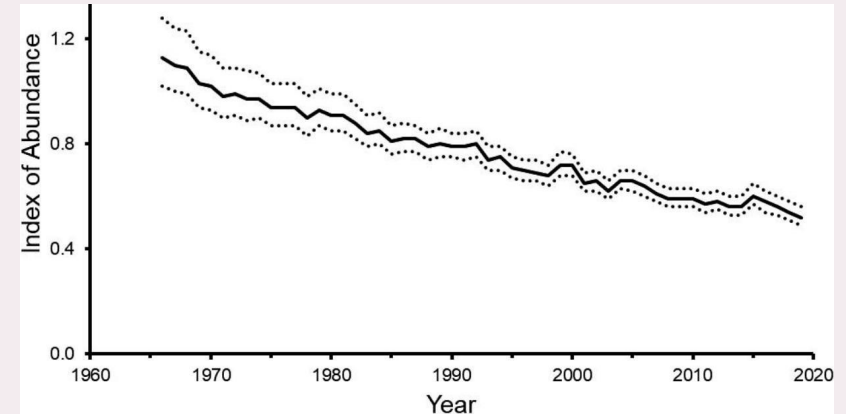
Changing weather patterns negatively impact migration routes and food availability.



Threats to Kestrels



98.6%



of america has seen a decrease in kestrel population since the 1960's



Benefits of Kestrels

Kestrels for our City Bird



Benefits of Kestrels

Healthier Ecosystem

Kestrels are a natural pest control protecting crops and maintaining an ecological balance

Engagement and Education

Learning and Conservation Initiatives for a City Bird can be started. These initiatives can not only help our Kestrel's lives and population, but also help foster community engagement and educational opportunities for a wide range of age groups.





Benefits of Kestrels



Research

Studying kestrels in suburban environments can give insight to researchers for urban ecology and wildlife adaptations.

Pride and Resilience

Supporting kestrel populations will not only strengthen our food web to climate change impacts, but the symbol of a city bird can bring pride to our residents.



Public Participation and Initiatives

How can we support american kestrel
population while also engaging with our
community?



Public Participation and Initiatives

Pesticide Control

As we know kestrels are a great natural pest control, but they also suffer from the use of pesticides in their ecosystem.

To combat this we can urge our residents to decrease the use of pesticides or switch to natural alternatives.

Nesting Box Construction

Nesting boxes are a great way to support kestrel repopulation from their dwindling numbers, due to habitat loss.

Nesting boxes are also a great way to get members of the community to get together and create these boxes. (done in the past multiple times).



Public Participation and Initiatives



Awareness Campaigns

An important part to conservation is to create awareness about a topic. We can coordinate with schools and clubs to support these campaigns in an effort for people to become more involved in bird and kestrel conservation.



Other Cities

Examples of success of other city birds



Other Cities

Rockford, Illinois

- City Bird: Peregrine Falcons
- Rockford announced their city bird in July 17, 2020.
- After declaring their city bird, conservation efforts were taken to repopulate Peregrine Falcons by setting up nesting es . in the city - and worked!



Houston, Texas

- City Bird: Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron
- In September of 2019 Houston declared their city bird.
- Houston is a central flyway for migratory birds. To raise awareness they conducted a campaign where their residents voted for a city bird.
- Houston not only uses the Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron for it's own awareness programs, but also to raise awareness on all the endangered birds in houston.





Long Term Vision

What are the benefits of having a kestrel as our city bird going to do in the long term?



Long Term Vision



Ecosystem

Our ecosystem will benefit from a repopulated species that supports the food web.

Community and Conservation

Over the next few years our conservation efforts of constructing nesting boxes and creating awareness programs will not only benefit the bird, but also be just another way that our community is brought together.