

# Hornaday Award Project Summary

**Project Category:** Fish and Wildlife Management

## Kestrel Nest Boxes

**Plan:** My project was in the Fish and Wildlife Management category. I built nesting boxes to see what effect the West Nile Virus (WNV) would have on the birds inhabiting the boxes. The bird of choice, chosen by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), was the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The project the RMBO was doing was a multi-year survey. Its intentions were first to determine where Kestrel nest box colonies had been established along the Front Range and assess the level of usage. Second, capture, band and take tissue samples for WNV on any nestling and adult Kestrels actively using the nesting boxes. Third, actively trap, band and take tissue samples for WNV on any adults and fledged juveniles found along the nesting box routes. Finally, monitor the reproduction success of the birds (infected and uninfected) using the nesting boxes as a means of assessing the potential impact of WNV on reproductive success and survival of the birds. The information gathered through the use of the nesting boxes on the wild raptor population was needed in determining the long-term management strategies for this avian guild. The results of the study using kestrels as the sentinel species for WNV hopefully gave the RMBO insights as to how WNV might be impacting other raptor populations along the Front Range.

**Leadership:** I gave leadership to over thirty others, Scouts and adults, spent over 100 hours in the construction of 25 boxes.

### **Result:**

I however was only involved in providing the manpower needed to construct the nesting boxes. The RMBO was unable to find the necessary manpower needed to build the 25 boxes. I discovered this project through an email on Scoutmail and volunteered my services in the construction of the 25 boxes. The RMBO supplied all of the materials needed to build the boxes. I was also involved the installation of five of the boxes which were placed in pre-determined destinations along the Front Range.

**Date Completed:** 10 - 2007

**Number of People Involved:** 32

