



Executive Summary

Project Title: American Kestrel Survival
Reporting Organization: Craighead Beringia South
Contact: Ross Crandall
Email: ross@beringiasouth.org

With funding provided by the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund (MBRWF), we initiated an effort in 2017 to determine American Kestrel survival rates in Jackson Hole. American Kestrels are a small falcon that inhabit open areas around the Valley, feeding on small mammals, birds and insects. American Kestrel abundance is declining across North America, including a 55% decline in western Wyoming with no known cause driving the decline. In Jackson Hole, American Kestrels are migratory only spending the nesting season here in Teton County. We know, based on our previous work, kestrels nesting in Jackson Hole travel southward as far as southern Mexico. Our objectives for this project were to estimate survival probability of kestrels nesting in Teton County, identify temporal trends of mortality (e.g. nesting vs. non-nesting season) and assess the contribution of estimated mortality rates to population dynamics. With financial support from the MBRWF, we were able to purchase 8 specially designed tracking devices, which allow us to relocate marked kestrels and estimate survival rates. During the 2017 nesting season, we were able to deploy 6 of our 8 tracking devices. Of the 6 kestrels that we telemetered, all 6 survived for the duration of the nesting season. We are awaiting the return of the adults in 2018 to assess overwinter survival. We considered the 2017 nesting season a pilot year and, based on our success, we plan to continue the project through the 2019 nesting season.