

The American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest falcon, only about the size of a robin, bearing especially long wings and tail.

It is also the most numerous and widespread American member of the Falconidae family and the only one of 13 kestrels found globally that occurs in the Western Hemisphere.

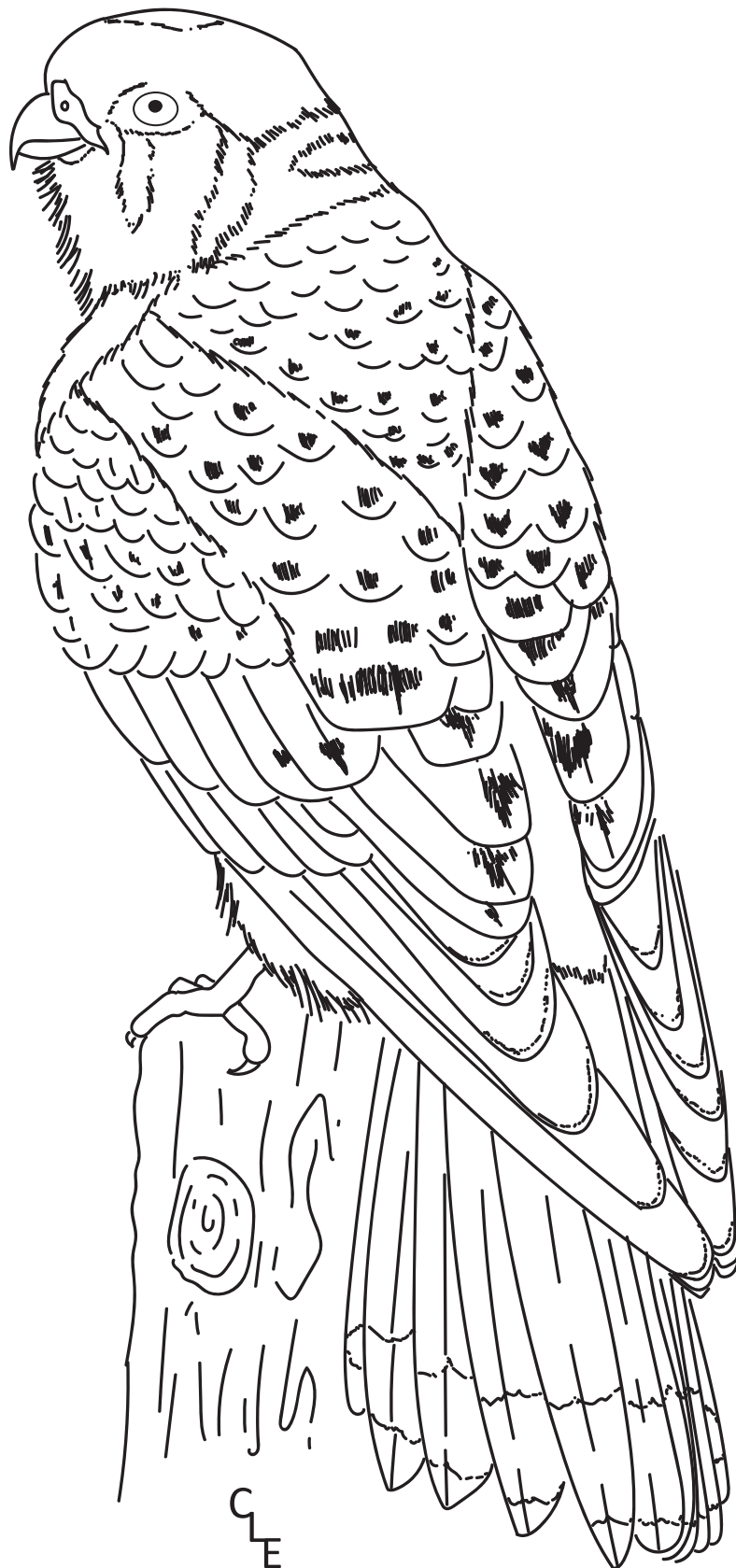
It's among the most colorful of raptors, sporting a boldly patterned head and warm rufous back and tail. The adult male (pictured here) bears slate-colored wings, while the female bears multiple bars on her tail.

As its name suggests, this kestrel ranges throughout the Americas from Alaska to Argentina.

These birds can be spotted in open habitats such as meadows, shrublands, grasslands, agricultural fields, pastures, forest edges, and even deserts.

They enjoy dining on a wide variety of prey including small songbirds, bats, rodents, lizards, frogs and especially insects like grasshoppers, cicadas, beetles and dragonflies.

Kestrels make their nests in rock crevices, nooks in buildings, cavities of large trees and will readily take to artificial nest boxes as well.



Learn more about kestrels and how to draw them:
www.christineelder.com/how-to-sketch-kestrels/