



**American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).** COLORATION: Rusty, gray, black, and white. Males have blue-gray on wings. Kestrels form a subgroup among falcons. They typically hover over one spot, then swoop down to take prey on the ground. Their food, more varied than that of typical falcons, includes insects, reptiles, amphibians, mice, and

small birds. The American Kestrel (formerly called the Sparrow Hawk) is the smallest, as well as the commonest, falcon in the United States (9-11 inches long) but is also found throughout most of the Western Hemisphere.

(Note: Owls [Strigiformes] begin on page 24.)