



New Canaan Nature Center

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our American Kestrel, Topper. Having arrived at the New Canaan Nature Center in June of 2002 from a professional wildlife rehabilitator in Southington, CT, Topper quickly became one of our most beloved animal ambassadors.

For over 18 years, Topper visited countless schools, libraries, birthday parties, and scout programs in both Connecticut and New York. To say that he reached THOUSANDS of people is surely an understatement. In fact, his true community impact is immeasurable, as he spent his years educating and instilling a sense of wonder for the natural world in people of all ages. To put it simply, he amazed us all!



With a right-wing fracture that never healed properly, Topper was unable to fly the long migratory distances needed for an American Kestrel to be able to survive in the wilderness. In living at the nature center, Topper instead became well-known for his sweet "dance" moves while perched on glove during programs and his spunky personality. Time and time again, you could always count on Topper to elicit an "aww" from program participants the moment they met him!

Here at the nature center, we work every day to inspire people of all ages to respect, protect, and enjoy the world of nature. By helping to teach so many about the amazing adaptations of falcons and other birds of prey, Topper more than succeeded in fulfilling this mission.

We consider ourselves privileged to have shared our lives with Topper, and to honor his memory, we have set up The Topper and Socs Memorial Fund. This Fund will be restricted and will support our Birds of Prey in every aspect of their lives.

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love." ~Mother Teresa

[Donate Today](#)

Upon signing into your Nature Center account, click donate, and then be sure select "Topper & Socs Memorial Fund" when choosing your donation type.