

## Managing Grasslands and Early Succession Habitat for Migratory Birds on the Oak Ridge Reservation



**Prescribed fire**, a vital part of grassland ecosystems, is used to promote fire-dependent species, maintain early succession habitat, and reduce fuel loads.



**American kestrel nest boxes** built by Boy Scouts are being installed by utilities personnel.



**An American kestrel** hunts the edge of a recently burned field of native warm season grasses.



**Basal area reduction** in pine stands opens the canopy, promoting diverse herbaceous understory plant communities that provide food and cover for birds.



**Strip disking** promotes edge habitat, provides much-needed bare ground, and stimulates the native seedbank.



**Dead snags** are preserved to benefit cavity-nesting species (e.g., red-headed woodpecker).