

RECOVERING THE LESSER KESTREL (FALCO NAUMANNI) AS A BREEDER IN BULGARIA

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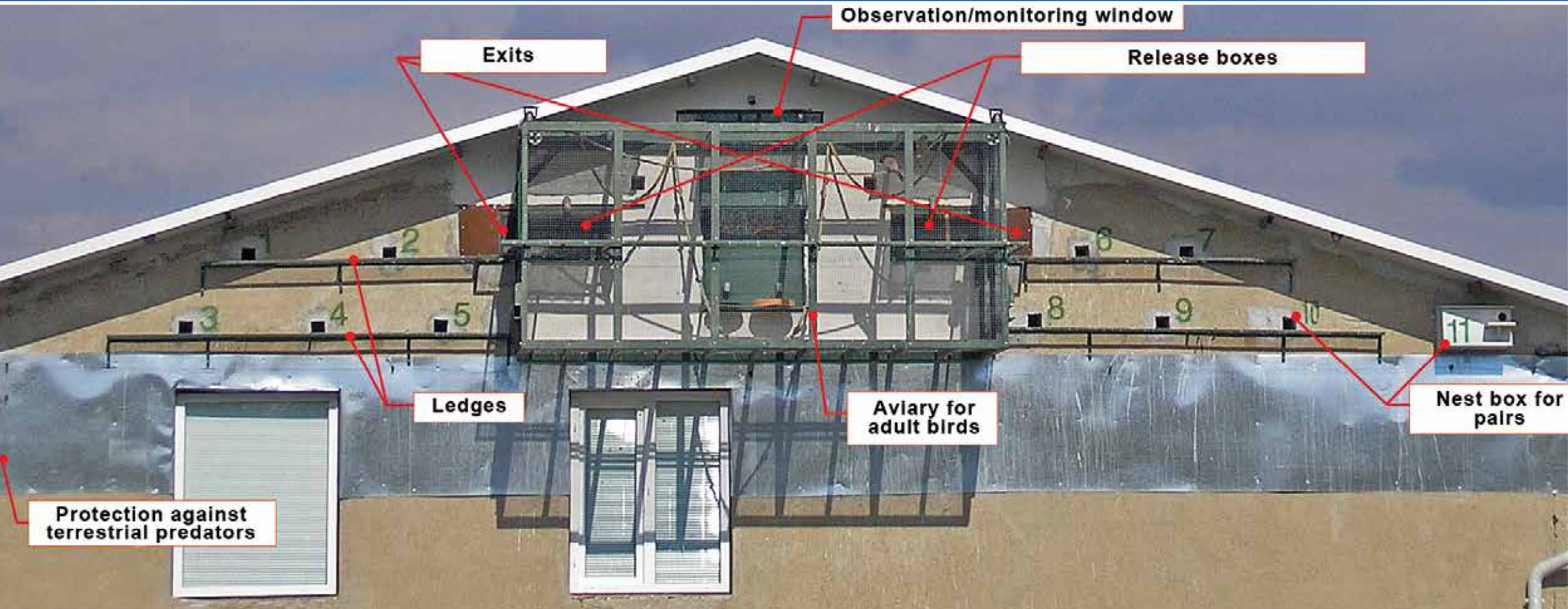
The Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) is one of the rarest raptors in Bulgaria. Although once a common species, Lesser Kestrel has not been confirmed as a breeder in the country for the past few decades. Having implemented feasibility studies, Green Balkans launched the implementation of direct actions aimed at restoring the species as a breeder in Sakar SPA, a NATURA 2000 site in Bulgaria, through release of juveniles into the wild.

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LESSER KESTREL RELEASE AND ADAPTATION MODULE (LKRAM)

Established in the village of Levka, within a NATURA 2000 site – Sakar SPA (BG0002021)

LKRAM Levka, NATURA 2000 site – Sakar SPA (BG0002021) – exterior view



DEMA BREEDING LESSER KESTRELS TO BE TRANSLOCATED TO AND RELEASED AT THE LKRAM LEVKA

DEMA Breeding Centre, Almendralejo, Spain, exterior view Inner yard of the facility – DEMA Breeding Centre, Almendralejo, Spain



TRANSPORTATION OF THE CHICKS FROM DEMA’S BREEDING CENTRE, ALMENDRALEJO (SPAIN) TO THE LKRAM, LEVKA (BULGARIA)



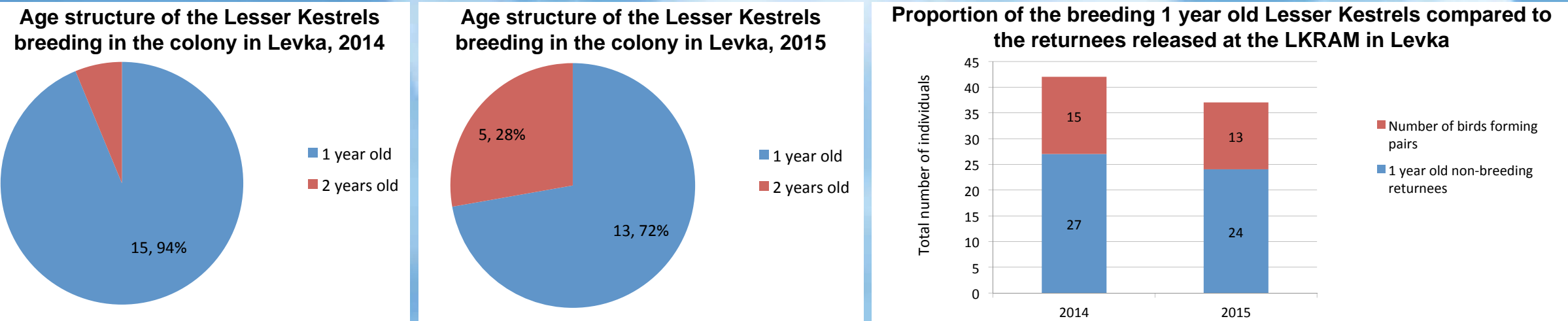
Table: Origin of the 286 Lesser Kestrels released/fledged at the LKRAM in the village of Levka (2013-2015)

Source of chicks released/fledged in LKRAM Levka:	2013	2014	2015
DEMA Breeding Center	90	60	45
Green Balkans WBRC	-	29	20
Levka breeding colony	-	16	17
Green Balkans WBRC from resqued eggs/chicks originated from Levka breeding colony	-	9	0
Total:	90	114	82

Table: Survival rate of the juvenile Lesser Kestrels released at the LKRAM during the first year

Year	Released juveniles	Returnees in 2014		Returnees in 2015		Total returnees	
	Individuals	Individuals	%	Individuals	%	Individuals	%
2013	90	42	46 %	5	5,55 %	58	64,44 %
2014	114	N/A	N/A	38	33,33%	38	33,33%
2015	82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

In the second year after the release, some of the released birds (5,25%, n=5) returned for the first time; these birds had not re-visited the colony after their first wintering period. Yet, the proportion of these individuals related to the total number of birds that had been released in 2013 and returned in 2015 (n=16) was of considerable dimensions (31,25%, n=5).



VARIOUS TYPES OF NEST BOXES MOUNTED IN THE LKRAM LEVKA



ESTABLISHING A LESSER KESTREL BREEDING STOCK AT THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND BREEDING CENTER OF “GREEN BALKANS – STARA ZAGORA” NGO

Table: Origin of the 40 individuals provided by Junta de Extremadura			A flock of birds from the breeding stock at the WRBC of Green Balkans in Stara Zagora		Interior of an aviary at the WRBC of the WRBC of Green Balkans in Stara Zagora	
Institution / Origin:	Breeding Centre	Rescued wild birds				
DEMA	2	9				
LOS HORNOS	2	27				

BIRD BANDING USING STANDARD METAL ORNITHOLOGICAL AND COLOR PVC RINGS FOR INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION



Bird ringing scheme: Orange ring with a black three alpha code (on left tarsus) and metal ring (on right leg), First letter: B, D, E, K, Y, Z
Orange ring with a black two numeric code (on one leg) and metal ring (on other leg)

LESSER KESTREL RECORDED AT THE LKRAM IN THE VILLAGE OF LEVKA



BREEDING PARAMETERS

Year	Released juveniles	Registered sexually matured	Resident in the home range	Established pairs	Confirmed pairs and laid eggs	Incubating pairs	Pairs with hatched chicks	Pairs with a reared chick
2013	90	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
2014	114	46	20	8 go 9	8	7	5	5
2015	82	59	40	9 go 13	9	9	5	5
Year	Eggs laid	Chickes hatched	Clutch size	Brood size	Success Rate	Productivity	Breeding Success	Fledging Success
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	37	16	4,6 (n=8)	4 (n=5)	0,62 (n=8)	2 (n=8)	2,28 (n=7)	3,2 (n=5)
2015	41	17	4,5 (n=9)	3,4 (n=5)	0,55 (n=9)	1,88 (n=9)	1,88 (n=9)	3,4 (n=5)