

Project Update: August 2014

Our investigations started in early April 2014, when lesser kestrels return to their breeding sites in Armenia. The first group of lesser kestrels was back on April 3rd. This year around 25 breeding pairs have returned to their breeding site in Gorayk IBA, from which 10 pairs occupied the artificial breeding tower. Because of weather conditions egg laying and incubation period started later (at the end of May) than in the previous years.

We observed and monitored feeding activity of lesser kestrel parents during breeding season, studied their diet, found a new breeding colony in Sisian town numbering around 50-60 breeding pairs; also lesser kestrel individuals were banded and equipped with geolocators, which will allow us to find out their movement patterns and migration routes after the tagged individuals are back to their natal area and the data could be downloaded from the devices.



Left: Banded male. Right: Juvenile with geolocator



Left: Lesser Kestrel released to the wild. Right: Male with geolocator