

Project Update: April 2011

After red-footed falcon nest box installation, occupation of newly installed boxes occurred very fast and success of the major part of the project was thus unexpectedly successful. We did not expect that more than a few boxes will be occupied by falcon pairs, having in mind that late spring and especially June and July (critical months for the breeding success) were very wet and cold, with poor chances for all pairs to establish breeding territories and to supply chicks with enough food.

However, due to high demands and traditional breeding sites, 40% of the 45 installed boxes were successfully occupied. Breeding started quite late and we have witnessed chicks in their nests even in August. There were 2-4 eggs per nest and 2-3 chicks per nest, which is excellent success in rather unfavorable conditions.

Out of three types of installed nests, the one with only one entrance was proved to be the best in such conditions, but falcons have accepted all other types of only partly opened nest boxes. However, breeding success was significantly better in net boxes which were more closed. It was especially true when comparing productivity in natural nests vs. the one in our nest boxes.

National survey of red-footed falcon resulted in records of total 22 active colonies with 150-180 pairs in 2010, which was very good result in comparison with previous years when up to 150 pairs bred. Having that in mind, it can be confirmed that the project had substantially positive impact in population size and it can be expected that this trend will continue in following years.



