

## Breeding success of the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) in Banat (Voivodina, Yugoslavia) based on ringing data

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We gathered all available information on the breeding success of Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*) in the Banat region (8886 km<sup>2</sup>) from ringing data. Gergelj & Šite (1989) found 15 nests with 48 nestlings (3.2 nestlings/nest) near the village of Jazovo (in the 10\*10 km UTM grid DR48) on 16 July 1988. Of the 48 nestlings they ringed 41 nestlings. At the same location, Gergely (1990) found 17 nests with 56 nestlings (3.3 nestlings/nest) on the 1st of July 1990. Two downy young were found in two nests, three in eight nests and seven nests contained four downy young.

We ringed 140 Red-footed Falcons in 56 nests at seven nesting places in the Banat region in 1990 and 1991. The number of nestlings per nest was 2.5 on aver-

age. The nesting sites were visited several times and we ringed only pin-feathered nestlings. From 1 to 13 July 1990 we ringed nestlings in one colony near the village Melenci, in another near Jazovo and in two colonies near the village of Torda. The cool and rainy spring of the following year delayed Red-footed Falcon breeding for about two weeks. Therefore, we conducted ringing between the 10th and 22nd of July in one colony near Melenci, in another one near Vljakovac, and in two colonies near Torda, as well as in a solitary nest near Slano Kopovo (Tab. 1).

We ringed nestlings of similar ages in both years, thus, the decrease in average nestlings per nest is probably a consequence of the cool and rainy spring of 1991. For example, there was only one

Tab. 1. Number of nestlings in nests at different sites in 1990 and 1991

Location (UTM)	No. of nests	No. of nestlings in nest				Total no. of nestlings	Mean no. of nestlings/nest
		1	2	3	4		
Melenci (DR44)	7	-	3	3	1	19	2.71
Jazovo (DR48)	12	1	3	6	2	33	2.75
Torda-A (DR54)	3	-	2	1	-	7	2.33
Torda-B (DR54)	2	-	1	1	-	5	2.50
<b>Total (1990)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2.66</b>
Melenci (DR44)	18	3	8	6	1	41	2.27
Vljakovac (EQ19)	9	1	2	5	1	24	2.66
Torda-A (DR54)	3	1	-	2	-	7	2.33
Torda-C (DR54)	1	1	-	-	-	1	1.00
Slano Kopovo (DR45)	1	-	-	1	-	3	3.00
<b>Total (1991)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2.37</b>

nest with one nestling (4.2% of nests) in 1990, while in 1991 there were six of such nests (18.8% of nests). During the ringing period there were  $2.66 \pm 0.76$  and  $2.37 \pm 0.87$  (mean S.D.) nestlings per nest in 1990 and 1991, respectively. These values are considerably lower than previously reported averages (Gergelj & Šite 1989, Gergely 1990). In our opinion, the difference may be attributed to the fact that we ringed and counted older, pin-feathered nestlings.

## References

- Gergely, J. 1990. Red-footed Falcons and Hobbys. – Magyar Szó 626: 4. (In Hungarian.)
- Gergely, J. & T. Šite 1989. Red-footed Falcon, *Falco vespertinus*, na Kapetanskom ritu i kod Jazova. - Ciconia 1: 64-65.