

Estudio preliminar de parámetros de los vuelos de alimentación del cernícalo primilla (Falco naumanni) mediante GPS-dataloggers

Foraging movement parameters of the lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) using GPS-dataloggers: A preliminary study

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Location: *Biogeografía de Medios Litorales: Dinámicas y conservación* (2014), ISBN 978-84-617-1068-3, pages 299-304

Language: Spanish

The lesser kestrel is a small-sized falcon that breeds across the Mediterranean basin. This species suffered a strong population decline due to agricultural intensification. During one breeding season, 19 individuals from a lesser kestrel colony were tracked using high-frequency GPSdataloggers. Our preliminary results showed that it is possible to identify the foraging areas within the individual foraging movements by analyzing the flight altitude and speed registered by the GPS. Our results also suggested the existence of kestrel plasticity of foraging movements that decreased their duration and increased their number per day by the end of the breeding season when the energy demand of breeders is higher due to chick rearing. This approach has important applications in management and conservation of the lesser kestrel.

Key words: Movement Ecology; animal tracking; movement patterns; foraging strategies; breeding season.