

Barn owl *Tyto alba* and kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* as breeding neighbours

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Barn owls and kestrels naturally rarely breed in close vicinity. Indeed, the multiple application of nest boxes for barn owls with an entrance at an outer wall of a building had as consequence that these two species more often come into competition for the same nesting site (KNIPRATH 2004). This mostly leads to violence, which has a winner (mostly the barn owl) but sometimes only losers. In the paper cited only one case has been reported in which an adopted barn owl's egg has been incubated as part of the kestrel's clutch and the young successfully has been reared.

In 2006 MARTENS for the first time could communicate the case that both species successfully breed in the same box and reared their young. This paper includes a photograph by Ch Rudolf showing in close vicinity four already grown up kestrel pulli, an adult barn owl, and two young barn owls of about three weeks of age.

Now one more case is documented. In the study area of the authors on the occasion of a box control on 2007-5-26 besides seven young barn owls of 2 - 4 weeks also four young kestrels of about three weeks were found (fig. 1). All were in good health and obviously staying at the site where the respective clutch had been incubated. No adult bird was found in the box which before had been closed from the outside.

Eighteen days later all seven barn owls were present and two fledgling kestrels. At least one more kestrel was sitting on the roof of the neighbouring church. In the evening a young kestrel was sitting in the entrance of the box at the arrival of the students. On our approach he retired into the inside of the box. There we then found three kestrels. Obviously the third bird had come back to rest here after his first flight day (fig. 2).

Figure 1: Young kestrels and barn owls in the same nest box on 2007-5-26.
Photograph by S. Stier

Figure 2: The same barn owls and two of the kestrels on 2007-6-13. Photograph by S. Stier

KNIPRATH E 2004: Nistplatzkonkurrenz zwischen Schleiereule (*Tyto alba*) und Turmfalke (*Falco tinnunculus*) – Ein Produkt des Vogelschutzes? Eulen-Rundblick 51/52: 15-17

MARTENS H-D 2006: Zeitgleiche Brut von Turmfalke und Schleiereule im selben Nistkasten. Eulen-Welt 2006: 32-33

Fußzeile

Appeared in German 2008: Schleiereulen *Tyto alba* und Turmfalken *Falco tinnunculus* als Brutnachbarn. Eulen-Rundblick 58: 57-58

Addendum

In this paper the observation by Martens of such a neighbourhood has been called the first one. That is wrong. Already in 2004 L Lange has communicated this situation, where two kestrels and five barn owls fledged. (LANGE L 2004: Erfolgreiche, Appeared in German 2008: Turmfalken *Falco tinnunculus* und Schleiereulen *Tyto alba* als Brutnachbarn. Eulen-Rundblick 58:

gleichzeitige Bruten von Turmfalke und Schleiereule in einer Schleiereulennisthilfe in der Wilstermarsch (Krs. Steinburg, Schleswig-Holstein). Vogelkdl. Ber. Zw. Küste u. Binnenland 3: 67)