**Template article for Conservation Evidence.**

**All text in black should be typed over; the font and paragraph is formatted for these sections.**

**All text in grey should be left as it is.**

**All text in blue should be deleted before submitting your manuscript.**

**Please type your title here. This should include the intervention, the species or habitat, and the location of the study e.g. Effect of nest box design on nest box occupancy by predatory birds in the Mongolian steppe**

Please add all authors, including the person that carried out the intervention:

Jane A. Jones1\* & Bill B. Smith2\*

1 *Organisation and postal addresses for author 1*

2 *Organisation and postal addresses for author2 etc for all authors*

\*corresponding author email address: jane.jones@auniversity.ac.uk

**SUMMARY**

A 150-250 word summary of the main findings of the study. This should briefly describe the aims, methods and results.

**BACKGROUND**

Please give the rationale for carrying out the intervention. Describe the relevant aspects of the study site, species and/or system. Explain the problem and focus of your management action. Please note there is no need for an extensive literature review. In the final sentence set out the aim of the study.

**ACTION**

Provide full details of how and when you carried out the intervention, and give information about the control (where relevant). Be as precise as possible, giving information such as the number and size of sites used and the precise dates that actions were carried out, so that others can repeat or adapt your actions. Please also describe when and how the monitoring was undertaken. You may want to include photos of the management action. E.g. Two different designs of artificial nests were made from 60 cm diameter steel drums. One was open-topped (approximately 30 cm height), and the other was a closed box 60 cm tall with a side entrance 30 cm high × 40 cm wide (Figure 1).

Please include a breakdown of the time taken and cost incurred if possible.

**Sub-headings**: can be helpful for structuring the Action and Consequences sections.

**CONSEQUENCES**

This is the results section that describes what happened. Please give data to show the effect of your intervention compared to the control, or a before-and-after comparison. Please use tables and figures to present data wherever possible. We are particularly keen on tables   
containing raw and/or mean data as others can see the exact figures. Simple statistical tests to support your conclusions may also be appropriate.

E.g. Saker falcons (χ2 = 51.3, d.f. = 1, p < 0.001) and common ravens (χ2 = 20.6, d.f. = 1, p < 0.001) selected closed nest boxes more frequently than open boxes. The total number of breeding pairs of both species occupying boxes increased over the study period (Table 1).

Please do not state the implications of your results in this section as facts (e.g. Therefore it is likely that breeding success increased), unless you have data to support them.

**DISCUSSION**

Briefly discuss the implications of your results, by putting your findings into context. The discussion need not be longer than one or two paragraphs. You may make suggestions based on your results in this section e.g. It is likely that providing nest boxes increased the number of chicks reared.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Please include any appropriate acknowledgements, including sources of funding.

**REFERENCES**

An alphabetical list of any references cited in the text. These are not required, and should not be lengthy; we suggest a maximum of 15 references for a standard article. The format for different types of reference is shown below:

Journal article: Pykälä J. (2005) Plant species responses to cattle grazing in mesic semi-natural grassland. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, **108**, 109-117. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2005.01.012

Report: Pywell R., Hulmes L., Meek W. & Nowakowski M. (2008) *Creation and Management of Pollen and Nectar Habitats on Farmland: Annual report 2007/8*. NERC report 6443.

PhD thesis: Smith D.W. (2006) Managing agri-environment grass fields and margins for Orthoptera and farmland birds. PhD thesis. University of Reading.

Book: Astuti R. (1995) *People of the Sea: Identity and Descent among the Vezo of Madagascar*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Book chapter: Pilgrim E.S., Potts S.G., Vickery J., Parkinson A.E., Woodcock B.A., Holt C., Gundrey A.L., Ramsay A.J., Atkinson P., Fuller R. & Tallowin J.R.B. (2007) Enhancing wildlife in the margins of intensively managed grass fields. Pages 293-296 in: J. J. Hopkins, A. J. Duncan, D. I. McCracken, S. Peel & J. R. B. Tallowin (eds.) *High Value Grassland: Providing Biodiversity, a Clean Environment and Premium Products. British Grassland Society Occasional Symposium No.38,* British Grassland Society (BGS), Reading.

Internet link: Forest Agency (2010) Managed woodland data and calculations. http://www.internetaddresshere.com (accessed 21 March 2013). NB. Date only required for pages on which contents change.

**Tables and Figures** should be provided at the end of the text. Each should be labelled with a fully explanatory legend.



**Figure 1**. The two different designs of nest box: a) open-topped and b) closed box

**Table 1**. Number of saker falcons and common ravens occupying open and closed boxes in each year of the study.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Saker falcon** | | **Common raven** | |
| **Open** | **Closed** | **Open** | **Closed** |
| 2006 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 2007 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 2008 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| 2009 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 2010 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 8 |

Example data and figure adapted from: Rahman M.D., Purev-ochir G., Batbayar N. & Dixon A. (2016) Individual study: Influence of nest box design on occupancy and breeding success of predatory birds utilizing artificial nests in the Mongolian steppe. *Conservation Evidence,* **13**, 21-26.