

Circus pygargus

Montagu's harrier

Description :

It is the smallest the most slender of the four European harriers. The male is ash gray, when flying we can see two black bands under the secondaries while and the tip of the wing is entirely black. The female has a bright rufous underparts and a reddish-brown upperparts streaked with black. The rump is white, the tail barred with several transverse bands only one is visible above.

Are they Migratory ?

Yes ; They arrive in April and leaves during August/September. They spend their winter in South Africa.

Natural Habitat :

Europe, Asia and Africa

Estimated population in Europe

Around 25000 harriers

Estimated population in Drôme

Less than 40 harriers

Place of Observation

Wet areas and open landscapes

Other facts :

- They are diurnal raptors
- Life expectancy of 16 years
- They are sociable with each other
- Impossible to approach ; it notices you from very far

-Size : 50cm

-Wingspan :

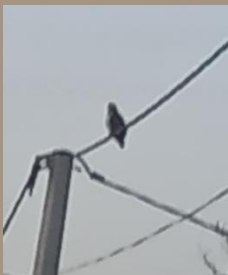
97 to 115cm

-Weight :

300 to 450g

-Longevity :

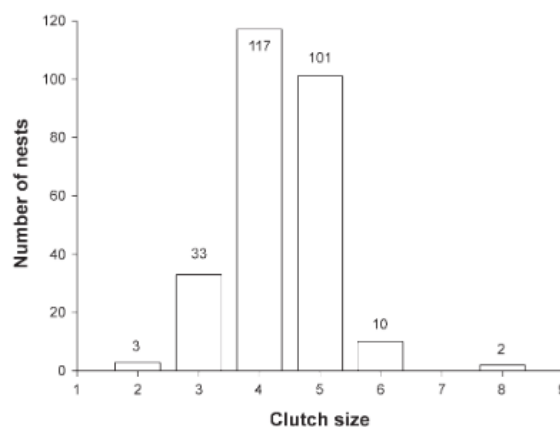
16 years



The specie is in steep decline



Number of nests sorted By the Clutch size (number of eggs in the nest)



Graph analysis :

(I didn't find any other information about Montagu's Harrier. This graph concerns nests that are in a natural vegetation site in northeast Spain.)

This graph shows us the number of nests sorted by the clutch size that were found and observed during the period 1989-2003. We can see that most of the nests have 4 to 5 eggs, 218 nests out of 266 have an average egg productivity. We can also see that there were very few nests observed that have extreme amounts (very low or very high) of eggs. Only 48 nests out of 266 are making extremums (2-3 eggs or 6 to 8).

This information can tell us that Montagu's Harriers are pretty regular and foreseeable in the number of eggs they make. However, we can't absolutely tell the number of birds in this natural site only with this chart because there was observed that there was a failure of hatching percentage of these eggs, either because they get eaten or fall from their nests or simply because it wasn't brooded enough.

[Lien vers Google Maps](#)

