



ARDB 2019. AFRICAN RAPTOR DATABANK:  
 a secure, live data observatory for the  
 distribution and movements of African raptors.  
 Habitat Info Ltd, Solva, UK.  
 www.habitainfo.com/ardb\_observatory/  
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# 970 Merlin

*Falco columbarius*

**IUCN Status Least Concern**  
 IUCN (2019-2)

male mass = 170 g  
 female mass = 240 g  
 mean mass = 210 g

area requirement (of pair/2.2 individuals) = 5.2 km<sup>2</sup>

from Newton (1979) figure 10:  $area\ km^2 = 0.4 + (0.02 * female\ mass\ g)$   
 replaced by direct measurement of field density where we have data

this figure is used for estimating density of breeding individuals and offspring in good habitat  
 we assume twice the area requirement in suboptimal habitat  
 and half the area requirement in optimal habitat  
 breeding population estimates represent theoretical maxima where habitat is saturated  
 nest-site limitation and the floating / non-breeding population are not yet fully accounted for

### HABITAT SPACE ANALYSIS

	extent (km <sup>2</sup> )	individuals	pairs
suboptimal 25-50% suitable		0	0
good habitat 50-70% suitable		0	0
optimal habitat 70-100% suitable		0	0
total habitat 25-100% suitable	0	0	0

### reporting rate from mobile app survey data

2014 (26724 km) : birds per 100 km  
 2015 (87188 km) : birds per 100 km  
 2016 (81150 km) : birds per 100 km  
 2017 (57721 km) : birds per 100 km  
 2018 (19798 km) : birds per 100 km

