

# EOU2013UK



## PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS



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**NEIGHBOUR DEAREST: COLONIAL LESSER KESTRELS *FALCO NAUMANNI* BENEFIT FROM NEST ATTENDANCE OF NEIGHBOURING JACKDAWS *CORVUS MONEDULA***
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Colonial species interact not only with conspecifics but often with other species nesting at the same site. The effects of conspecific traits have recently been measured with multilevel social selection analysis, but the effects of heterospecific social traits on individual fitness have yet to be quantified. We measured nest attendance effect of two species, lesser kestrels *Falco naumanni* and jackdaws *Corvus monedula*, nesting on the Gela Plain (Sicily, Italy). Both species are secondary-cavity nesters breeding in abandoned rural buildings where they form single-species or mixed-species colonies. By correlating reproductive success as a measure of fitness to conspecific and heterospecific nest attendance, our data revealed that despite fitness benefits that would accrue to lesser kestrels associating with highly-vigilant jackdaws, this advantageous assortment rarely occurred. Jackdaws, however, benefited from enhanced vigilance effort at their own nest regardless of the attendance level of neighbouring lesser kestrels. Our results implicate nest site limitation as the ecological factor preventing lesser kestrels from maximizing fitness through assortment with jackdaws.