The Black Kite is a regular breeder and migrant in Bulgaria. In single cases it has been recorded during the winter period in the country, however, these are rare (Simeonov et al. 1990) and no recent records have been published. The species is reported as wintering in small numbers in the Mediterranean basin (Cramp 1998). During the 2007 Midwinter count of waterfowl in Bulgaria on 13 and 14 Jan, it was observed at two locations in South Bulgaria – Mramor Reservoir near Sofia (UTM FN83, W Bulgaria) and Choba Reservoir near Plovdiv (UTM LG38, central Bulgaria). The first observation was of a single bird, hunting at the nearby fields. On the second occasion there was a couple of birds flying over the Choba Reservoir. These observations should be associated with the extremely mild weather conditions in the entire country with the minimum of 1°C and maximum of 22°C and the lack of snowcover below 1000 m a.s.l. The winter season of 2006 / 2007 in Bulgaria was generally marked by lack of snowfall and mild, even warm temperature conditions ranging between 5–10°C. All this resulted in an unusual activity of rodents, amphibians and insects, which are major components in the diet of Black Kite.

A fully built nest of House Martin was observed on 9 Aug 2004 in the town of Simeonovgrad (UTM MG05, Haskovo region, SE Bulgaria). The nest was located under a balcony with southeastern exposition, on the second floor of a house. The nesting site was about 200 m away from the bank of the Maritsa River, where the nest-building material could have been collected. The nest opening was oriented by humans and on the roads interconnecting them. Despite the fact that the call of the owls can be heard from quite a distance, it is not certain that all the birds present there did call at that time. Consequently it is likely that the number of birds is somewhat higher than actually counted.

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between 8.25–9.30 h. On 23 Aug 2004, separate birds started to visit the nest at 7.45 h, without entering it. The same behaviour was observed on 25 Aug 2004 from 7.46 h to 8.01 h, but at 9.40 a group of 15 birds or so was feeding the nestlings. This time the two juveniles were seen in the nest opening. The maximum daytime temperatures during the period of observations varied between 27 and 38°C, while the minimum night temperatures dropped down to 17°C. During the period of observations, the weather was mainly sunny, hot and clear with two exceptions on 16 Aug 2004 and 22 Aug 2004, when it was cloudy and rainy. The young birds remained in the nest at least until 28 Aug 2004, when we saw them for the last time. The observed high number of the feeding birds (up to 15) could be explained with the participation of some individuals of the previous clutch helping the parents. Such a case of help in the rearing of the young is well known in many species, chiefly colonial, but it has not been reported for House Martin in the general literature available to me (Cramp 1998).

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Literatura za celo rubriko/
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