



Convention on the  
Conservation of Migratory  
Species of Wild Animals

# CHANGES IN FALCONERS' PRACTICES AND THE IMPACT OF ELECTROCUTION



In partnership with



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# CHANGES IN FALCONERS' PRACTICES AND THE IMPACT OF ELECTROCUTION

## **Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)**

The Raptors MOU is an agreement established under the Convention on the Conservation on Migratory Species of wild Animals (CMS). Its aims to promote internationally coordinated actions to achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status of migratory birds of prey throughout their range in the African-Eurasian region, and to reverse their decline when and where appropriate. It currently covers 94 species of birds of prey and owls, which are found in 131 Range States in Africa, Europe and Asia. 66 Range States and 5 Cooperating Partners have so far signed the Raptors MOU. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, based in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), serves as the administrative hub of the Raptors MOU. It supports Signatories, Cooperating Partner and facilitates and supports various conservation activities aimed at promoting internationally coordinated actions to safeguard migratory birds of prey.

## **International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF)**

IAF is the international NGO that has represented the interests of falconers and raptor conservationists worldwide since 1968. It represents 120 member organizations in 90 nations, encompassing a plurality of regions, cultures, ethnicities, and beliefs. It is members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and represent falconry within the preponderance of multilateral environmental agreements relevant to its field, including through our accreditation to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and as a Cooperating Partner to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (the Raptors MoU).

# Background

## The Saker Falcon

The saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) is one of the world's most iconic birds of prey, widely associated with the cultural traditions of falconry across Eurasia. Once common throughout its extensive range, from Central and Eastern Europe across Central Asia to Mongolia, the species has undergone significant declines over the past decades. Habitat loss, prey depletion, illegal trapping, and electrocution on poorly designed power infrastructure have all contributed to its downward trend. As a result, the saker falcon is currently listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, reflecting the urgent need for coordinated conservation action across its migratory and breeding range.



Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in flight. © Gabor Papp

Recognizing these challenges, the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), listed the species in Appendix I (with the exclusion of the Mongolian population) and in 2014 endorsed the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) as a comprehensive, science-based framework to guide international efforts to halt and reverse the species' decline. To support its implementation, CMS established the Saker Falcon Task Force, bringing together governments, conservation organizations, falconry groups, researchers, and other stakeholders. The Task Force is mandated to coordinate, advise, and monitor progress in delivering the SakerGAP, with a particular focus on fostering collaboration between conservation authorities and the falconry community, addressing threats such as electrocution, and promoting sustainable management practices. Through this mechanism, the international community continues working toward securing a viable future for the saker falcon across its global range.

## Survey Overview



Community engagement through wildlife education: handling of a saker falcon at the Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville, North Carolina. © DickDaniels, CC BY-SA 3.0, modified

In 2015, the Raptors MOU conducted its first dedicated survey on the status and use of the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), providing an initial overview of key conservation challenges and the species' relationship with falconry. A decade later, the 2025 questionnaire builds on that foundation with a significantly broader geographic scope, incorporating responses from additional European countries within the saker falcon's range. This expanded coverage allows for a more comprehensive understanding of current trends in falconry practices affecting the species.

For this new survey cycle, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), with support from the CMS Raptors MOU, developed an enhanced data-collection tool to gather detailed information on the use of saker falcons in falconry as well as the growing concern of electrocution incidents affecting falcons. The inclusion of this new module reflects the rising awareness of infrastructure-related threats and the need for more systematic reporting.

The survey sought to document not only the use of wild-caught saker falcons for falconry but also the use of captive-bred sakers and other falcon species. By analysing these patterns, the initiative aims to clarify the role of falconers in saker conservation and to identify opportunities for strengthened collaboration to support the recovery and long-term sustainability of the species.

# Methodology

The methodology relied on targeted outreach within the IAFs active membership and regional networks across saker range states. The questionnaire was distributed within IAF member organizations situated in relevant countries, drawing on IAF's strong presence in the saker's range and its communication channels with practitioners there.

To ensure accessibility, the survey was translated into English, Arabic, French, Russian, and Chinese, representing the primary languages of range states. The promotion of the questionnaire occurred through eight structured campaigns: two via IAF eBulletins (translated into an average of 12 languages), or direct mailing to engaged membership; several through Vice Presidents and national delegates who locally promoted participation; four through dissemination on social-media groups actively used by falconers (rather than general-public platforms), ensuring direct reach to practitioners.

The questionnaire was additionally promoted during the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX) and linked on both the IAF website and the IAF Conservation Hub. It was further highlighted in multiple presentations delivered by IAF representatives over the past year, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Deutscher Falkenorden (October 2024), at the AGM of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation in Qatar (April 2025), the 2024 and 2025 IAF AGMs, and other conferences and stakeholder gatherings attended by IAF officers.

Respondents in countries with insufficient data were directly contacted, encouraging participation and sharing amongst their network, and providing support to respondents needing clarification. The questionnaire itself included structured questions on geographic origin, experience levels, practices relating to wild and captive-bred falcons, trapping, veterinary care, opinions on population trends, and, in the electrocution module, first-hand experience of losses or observations of fatalities in the field. Together, this approach created a multilingual, practitioner-focused data-collection effort that maximized authenticity, representativeness, and range-wide coverage.

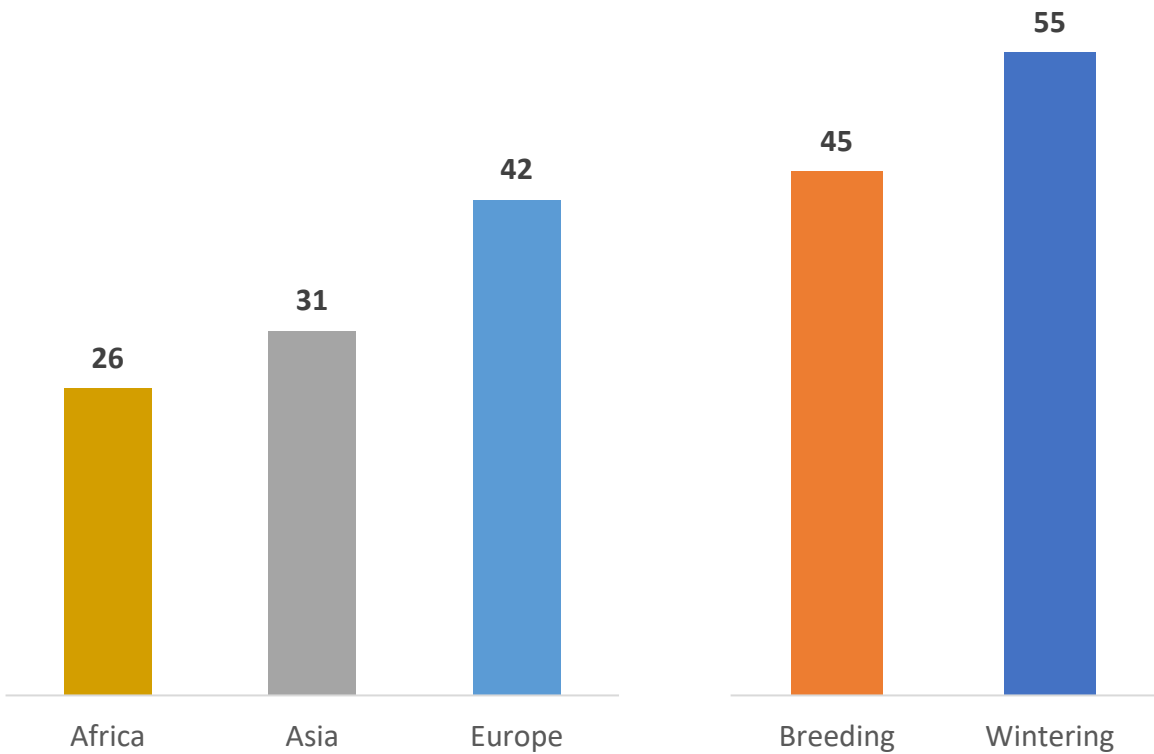
# RESULTS



## GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REPLIES

42% of responses came from Europe, 31% from Asia, and 26% from Africa.

55% of responses were from countries within the saker's wintering range, while 45% were from breeding-range countries.

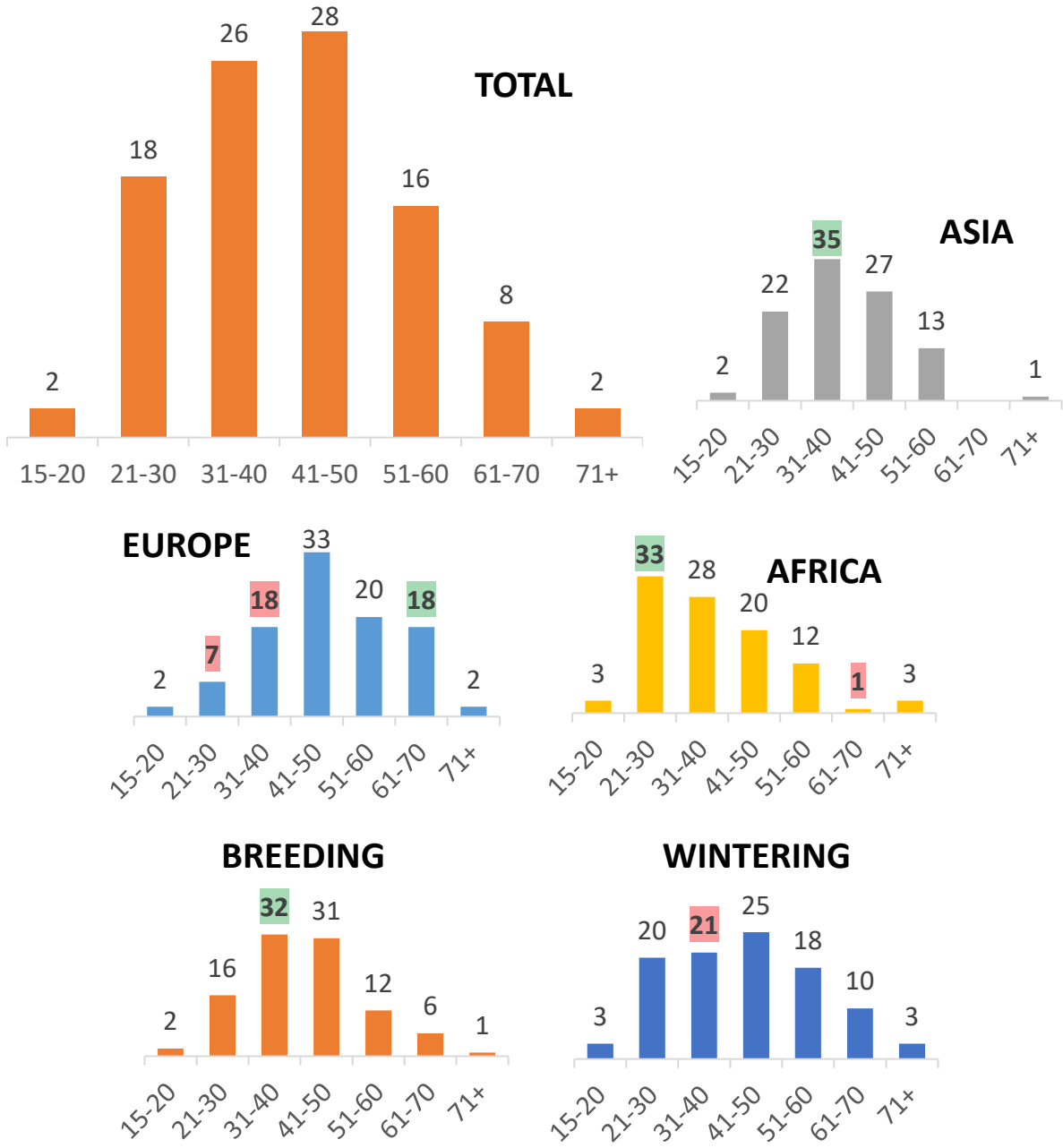


Q: Which continent are you from?

Data in %  
N=306

# AGE GROUPS

Most of the respondents were between 31 and 50 years old (54%). In Africa, respondents were significantly younger, with 33% aged 21–30. In Asia, more respondents (35%) were aged 31–40, while in Europe there was a notably higher proportion of older participants, with 18% aged 61–70.



A8: What is your age group?    ■ ■ Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=306

# WILD SAKERS

## WILD SAKERS

There was a significant change in the geographic scope of the survey. The current survey covered all saker range countries, whereas the previous one included only Asia and Africa.



Saker falcon with chick © Gabor Papp

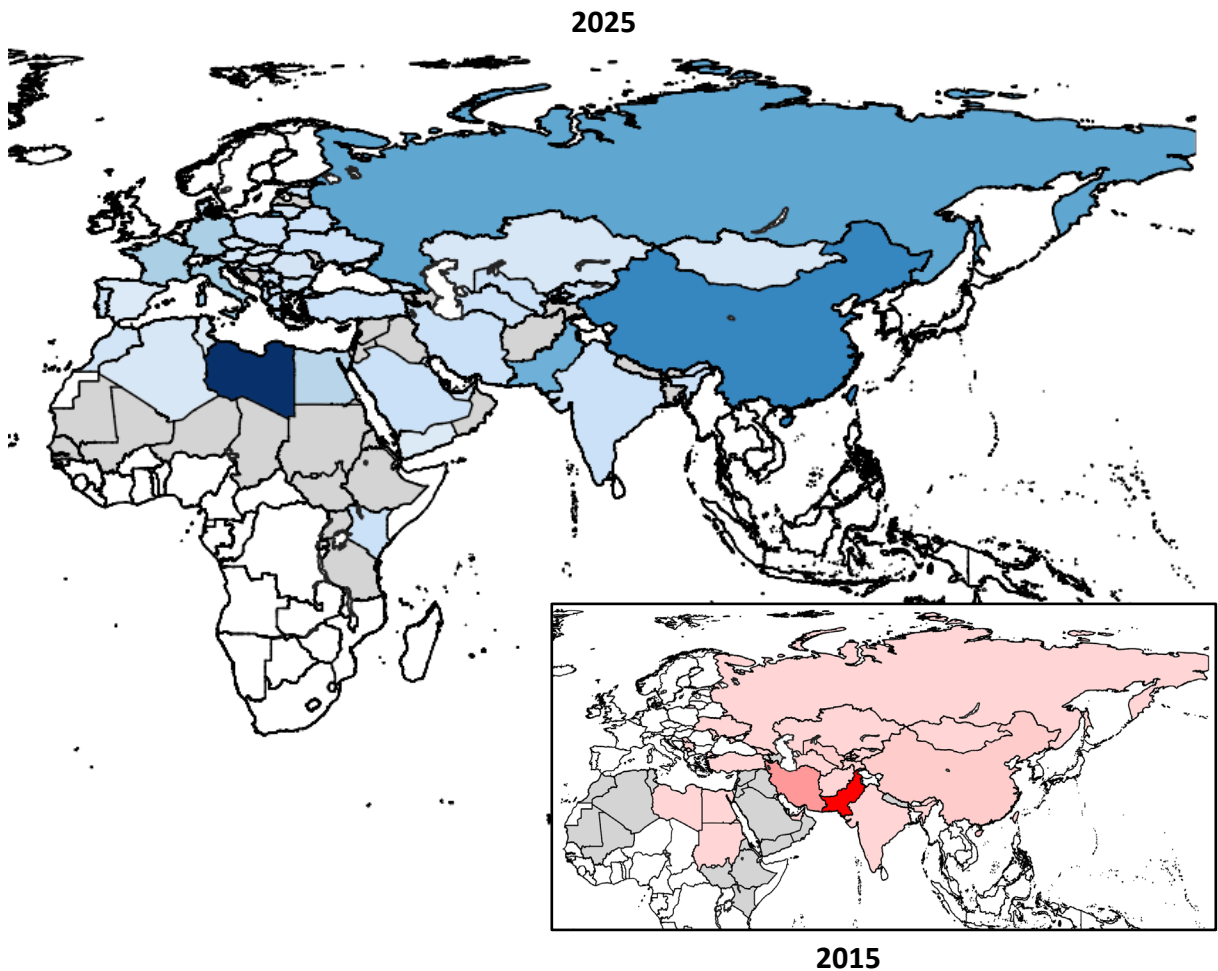
Two-thirds of falconers reported having knowledge of sakers in other countries, reflecting the extensive networks within the falconry community, similar to those of ornithologists. This proportion was higher than in the previous survey, likely because respondents from Africa more frequently use wild sakers and more often reported knowledge of other countries. In total, respondents provided coverage for 77 countries, representing the entire saker range except Mali.

Half of the respondents (49%) believed that saker populations were declining, one in seven (14%) believed they were stable, and only one in nine (11%) believed they were increasing. Ten years ago, a higher share (18%) had reported that populations were increasing, while slightly fewer (11%) had considered them stable.

Declines were more often noted in Africa and in the wintering range, while stable populations were more commonly reported in breeding-range countries.

# COUNTRIES WHERE THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

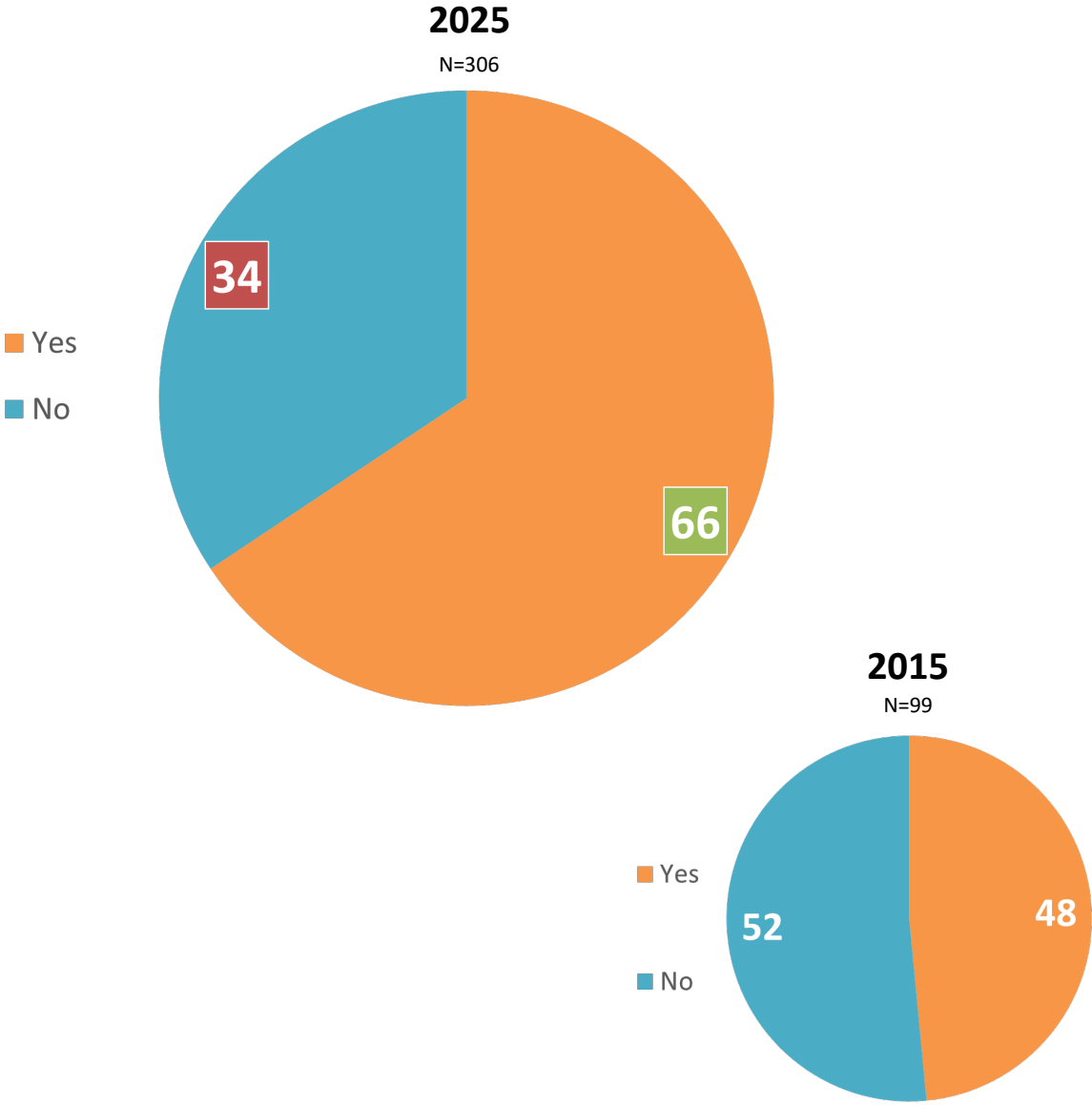
There are 78 saker range countries, including 26 breeding-range countries; the remainder are migration or vagrant-range states, particularly in Africa. Falconers from 48 countries participated in the survey. Falconry was either not practised or not legally permitted in most of the remaining 30 countries. The survey conducted ten years ago had covered only 23 countries.



Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 44. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# KNOWLEDGE OF WILD SAKER FALCONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Two-thirds of respondents reported having knowledge of saker populations in other countries. In the survey conducted ten years ago, only half of the respondents (48%) had such knowledge.



F2. Do you have knowledge of wild saker falcons in countries other than yours?

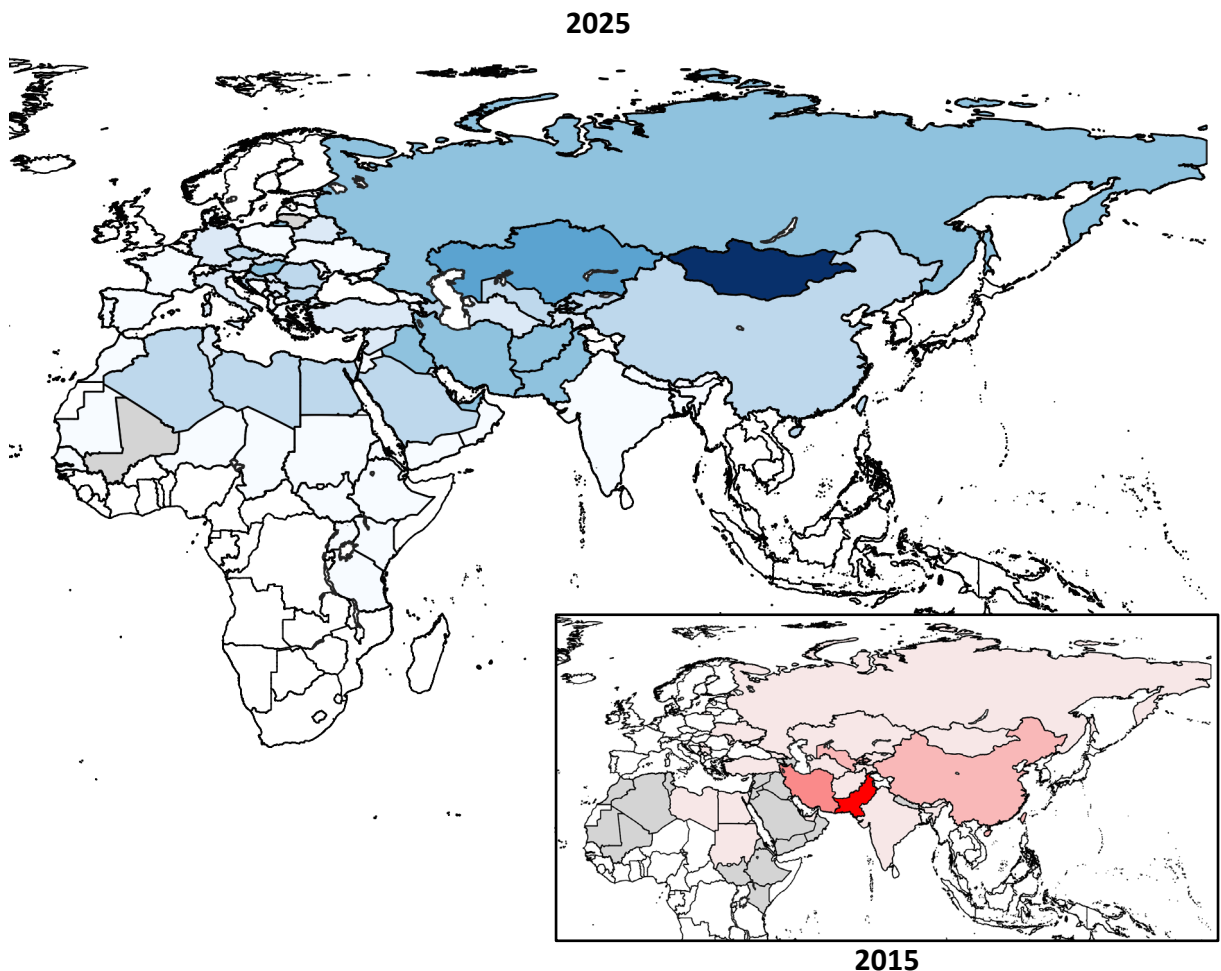
Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

## RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF SAKERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Respondents declared knowledge of saker populations in 75 countries other than their own, with particularly strong coverage in parts of North Africa and several Asian countries.

In the survey conducted ten years ago, respondents reported knowledge of saker populations in only 33 countries beyond their own.



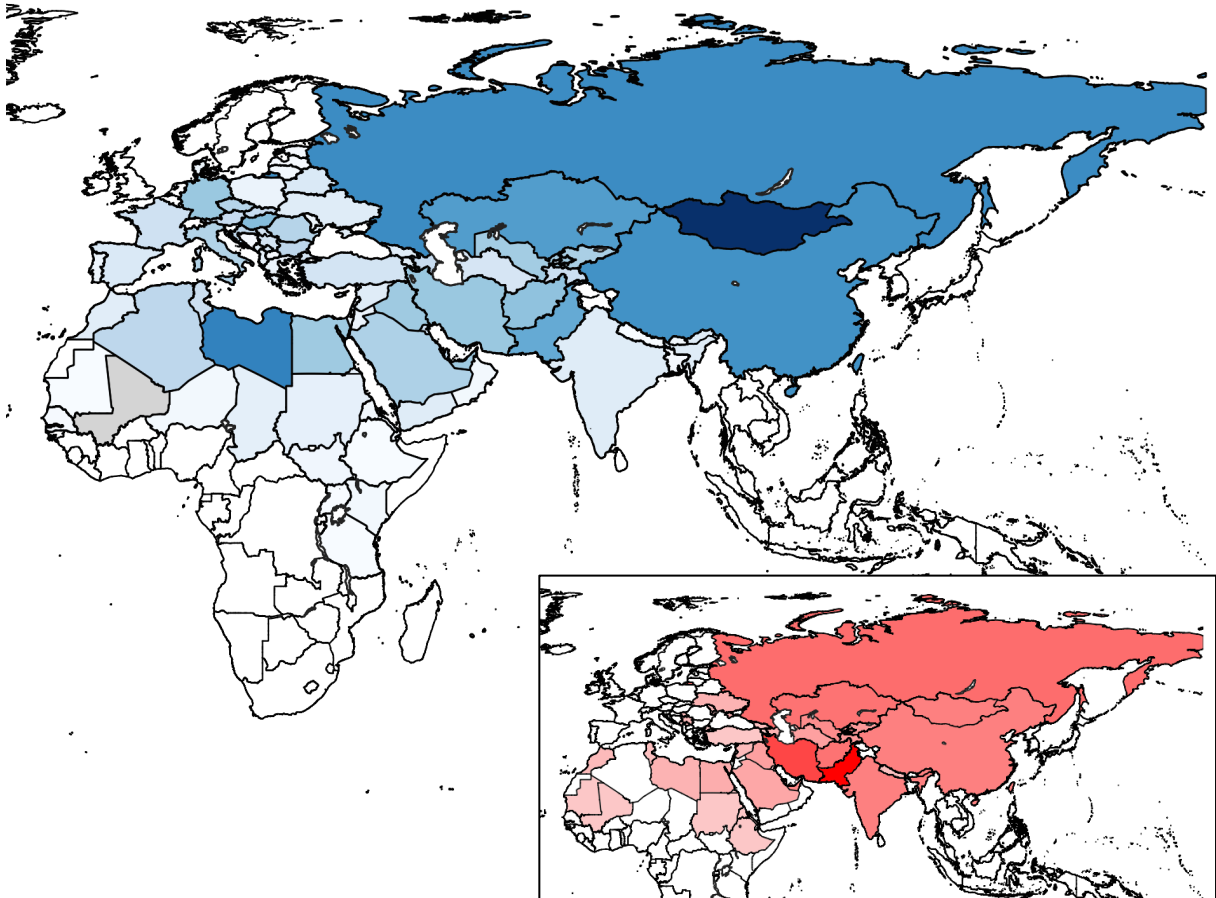
Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 78. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# COUNTRIES WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE OR DECLARE KNOWLEDGE OF SAKER POPULATIONS

The combined coverage represented almost the entire range of 77 countries, with Mali as the only exception.

Ten years earlier, the survey covered only 38 countries.

2025

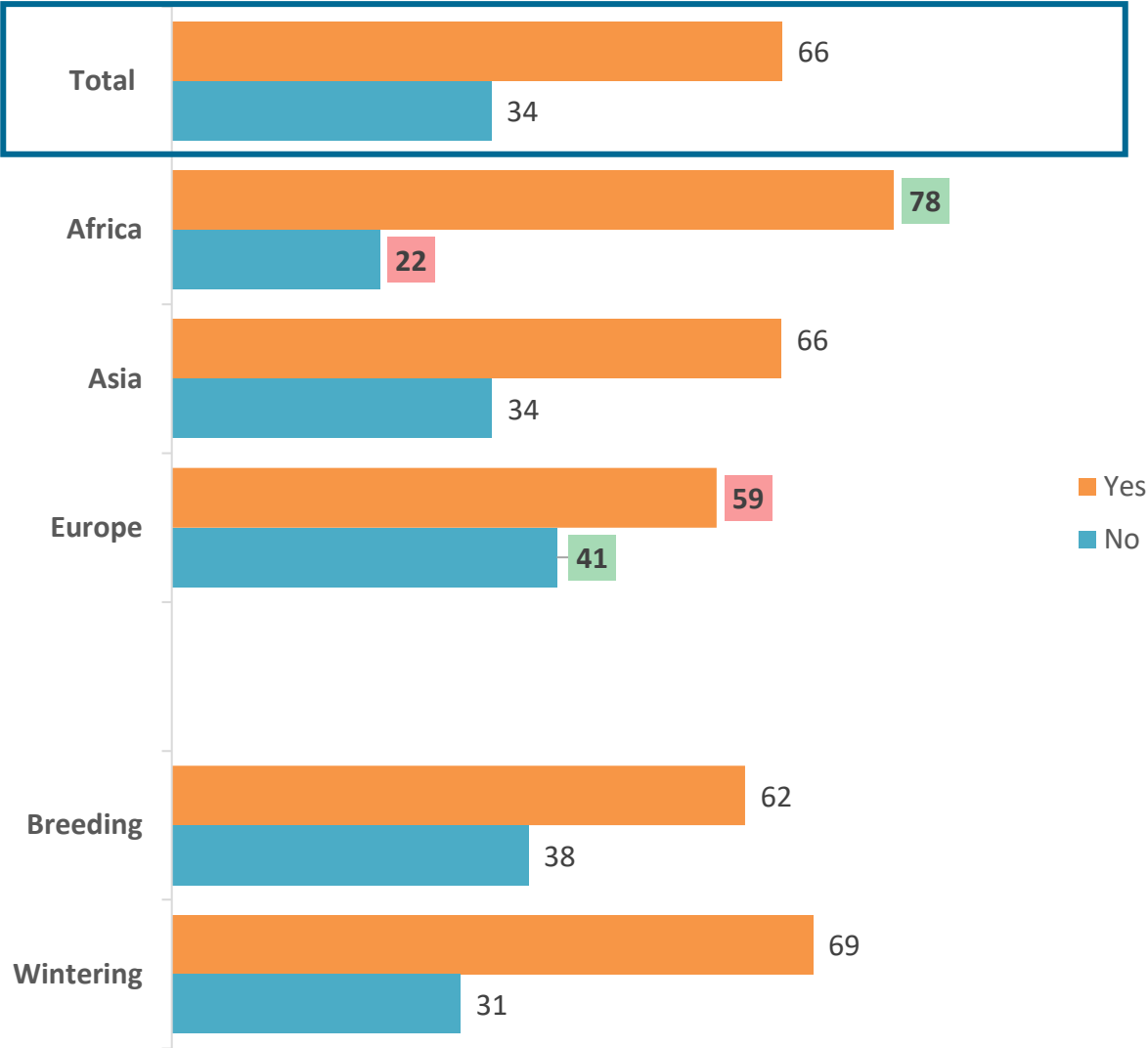


2015

Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 81. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# KNOWLEDGE OF WILD SAKER FALCONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

African respondents were more likely to have knowledge of saker falcons in other countries (78%). European respondents were least likely to do so, at only 59%.



F2. Do you have knowledge of wild saker falcons in countries other than yours?

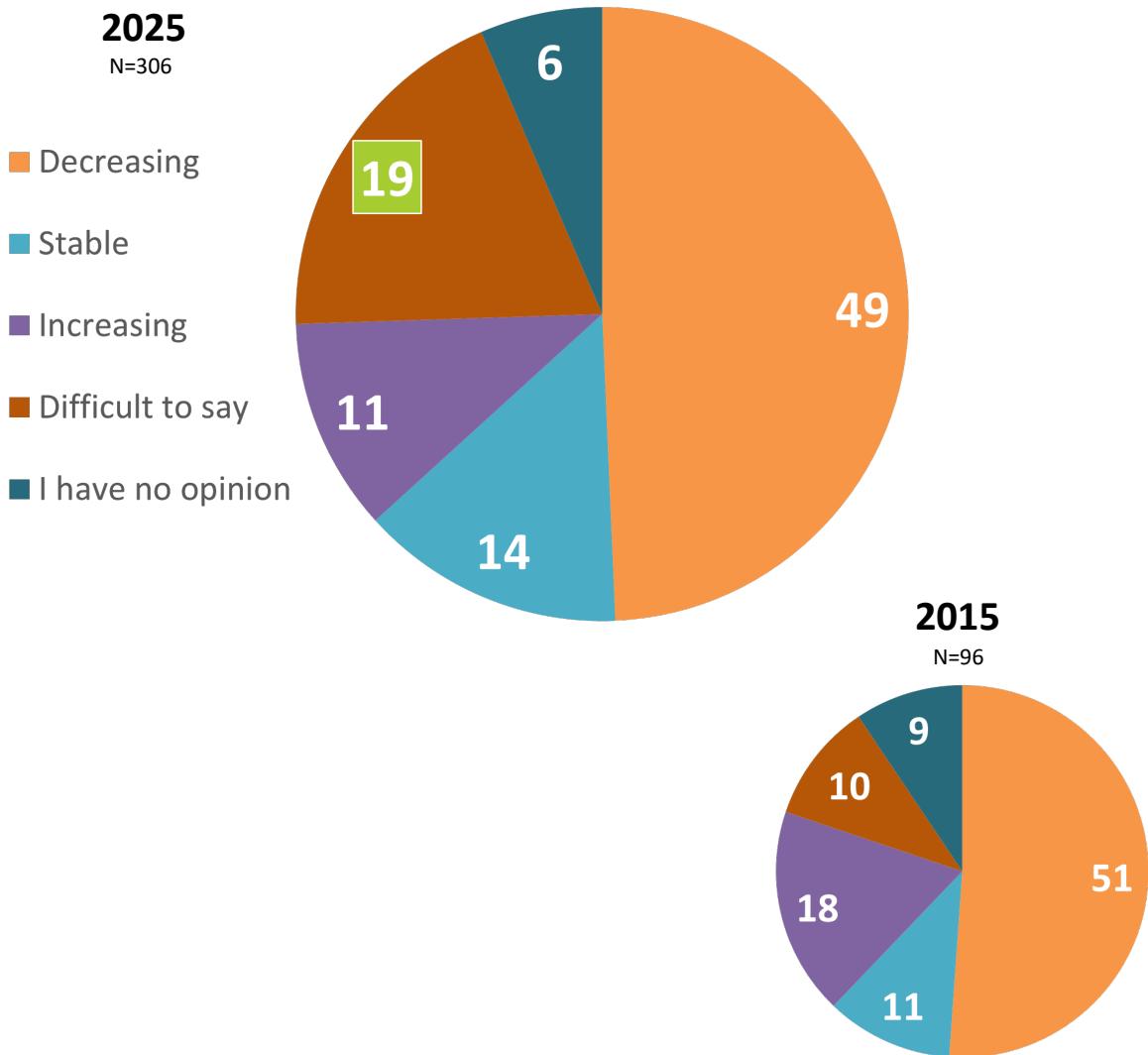
Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=306

# OPINIONS ABOUT SAKER FALCON POPULATION CHANGE

Half of the respondents (49%) believed that saker populations were in decline; one in seven (14%) considered them stable, and only one in nine (11%) thought they were increasing. A quarter of respondents had no opinion or found it difficult to say.

Ten years earlier, half of respondents (51%) also believed that populations were declining; one in nine (11%) considered them stable, and one in five (18%) thought they were increasing.



F4. Do you think that saker falcon numbers in the wild are decreasing or increasing?

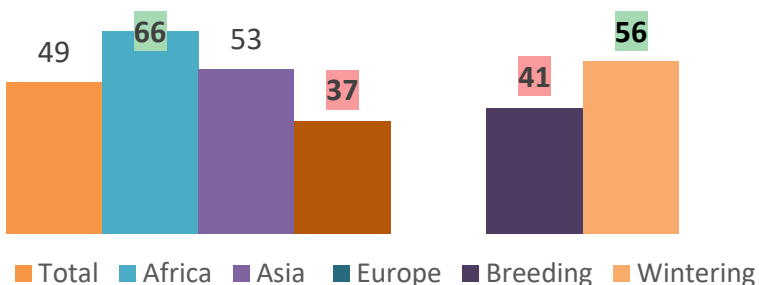
Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %

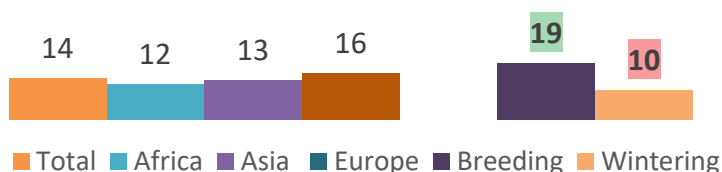
# OPINIONS ABOUT SAKER FALCON POPULATION CHANGE

A decrease in saker populations was more often recognized in Africa and in the wintering range. Stable populations were more frequently reported in breeding-range countries. 'Difficult to say' was more often chosen by respondents in Asia and within the breeding range.

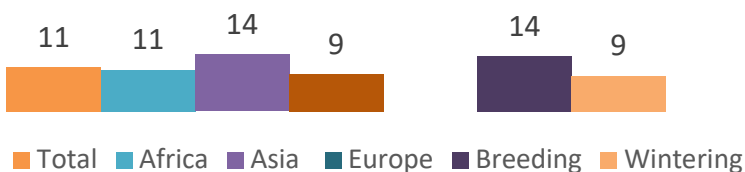
## DECREASING



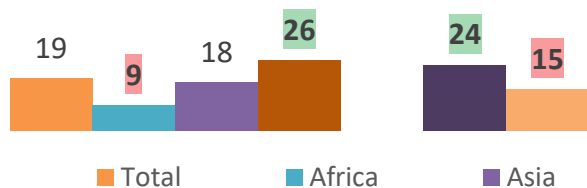
## STABLE



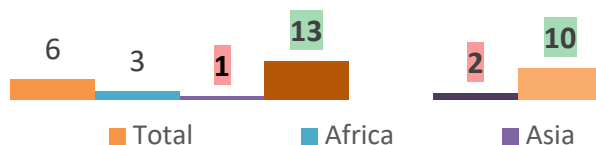
## INCREASING



## DIFFICULT TO SAY



## NO OPINION



F4. Do you think that saker falcon numbers in the wild are decreasing or increasing?

Legend: ■ Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95) ■ Statistically significant difference.

Data in %  
N=306

# ELECTROCUTION

# ELECTROCUTION



Electrocuted saker falcon. © IAF

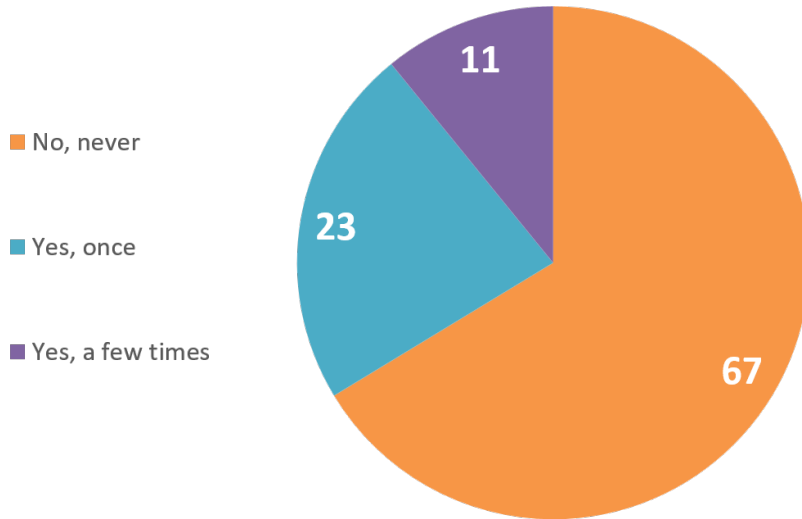
Electrocution is a serious issue for falconers: one third (33%) had lost at least one falcon to electrocution. The problem was most pronounced in Europe, where two in five falconers (42%) reported losing a bird, followed by Asia (33%). Only in Africa did the issue appear less significant, with one in six falconers (16%) reporting such a loss. Respondents reported losing trained falcons to electrocution in 27 countries.

More than half of respondents (56%) had seen an electrocuted wild falcon, and one third (35%) had witnessed such cases several times. They reported observations of electrocuted wild falcons in 43 countries, and in 46 countries when combined with electrocutions of trained falcons. The absence of reports from other countries does not imply the absence of dangerous power lines.

As with trained birds, electrocution of wild falcons was more frequently observed in Europe and Asia (around 60%), while in Africa it was reported by less than half of respondents (45%).

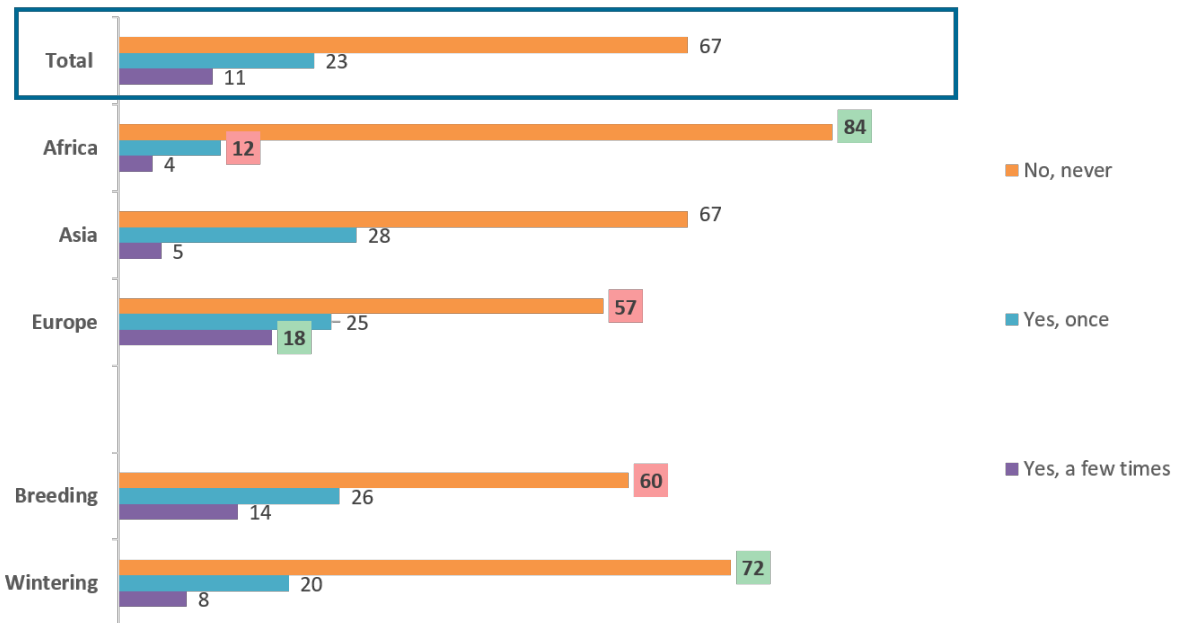
# LOSS OF TRAINED FALCONS DUE TO ELECTROCUTION

Electrocution is a serious issue for falconers as one third of falconers (33%) had lost at least one falcon to electrocution. A quarter of falconers (23%) had lost one bird that way and one ninth (11%) had lost few birds.



Data in %  
N=262

Two in five European falconers (42%) and one third of Asian falconers (33%) had lost at least one bird to electrocution. In Africa, the issue appeared less significant, with only one in six falconers (16%) reporting such an experience.



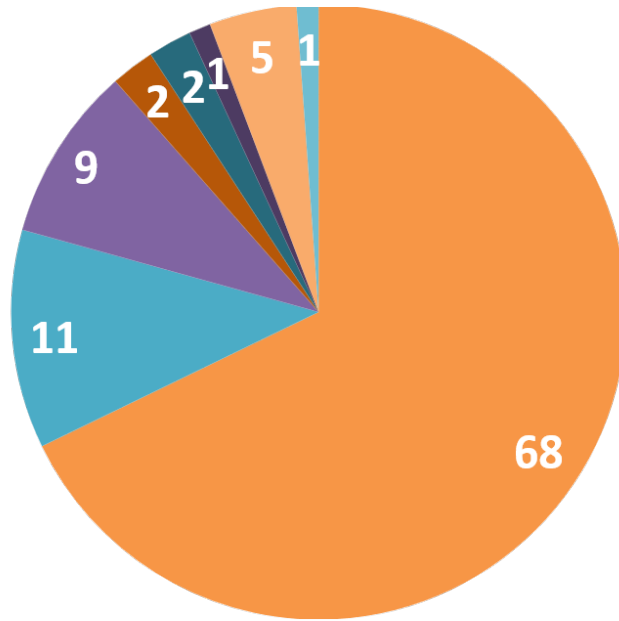
E1. Did You ever lose any of your falcons to electrocution, i.e. bird died on a power line or its pylon?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

N=262

# LOSS OF TRAINED FALCONS DUE TO ELECTROCUTION – HOW MANY

Two thirds of those who had lost falcons to electrocution (68%) had lost only one bird; one in nine had lost two birds, and one in eleven had lost three. The highest reported loss was 14 birds.



Number of trained falcons lost due to electrocution:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 10
- 14

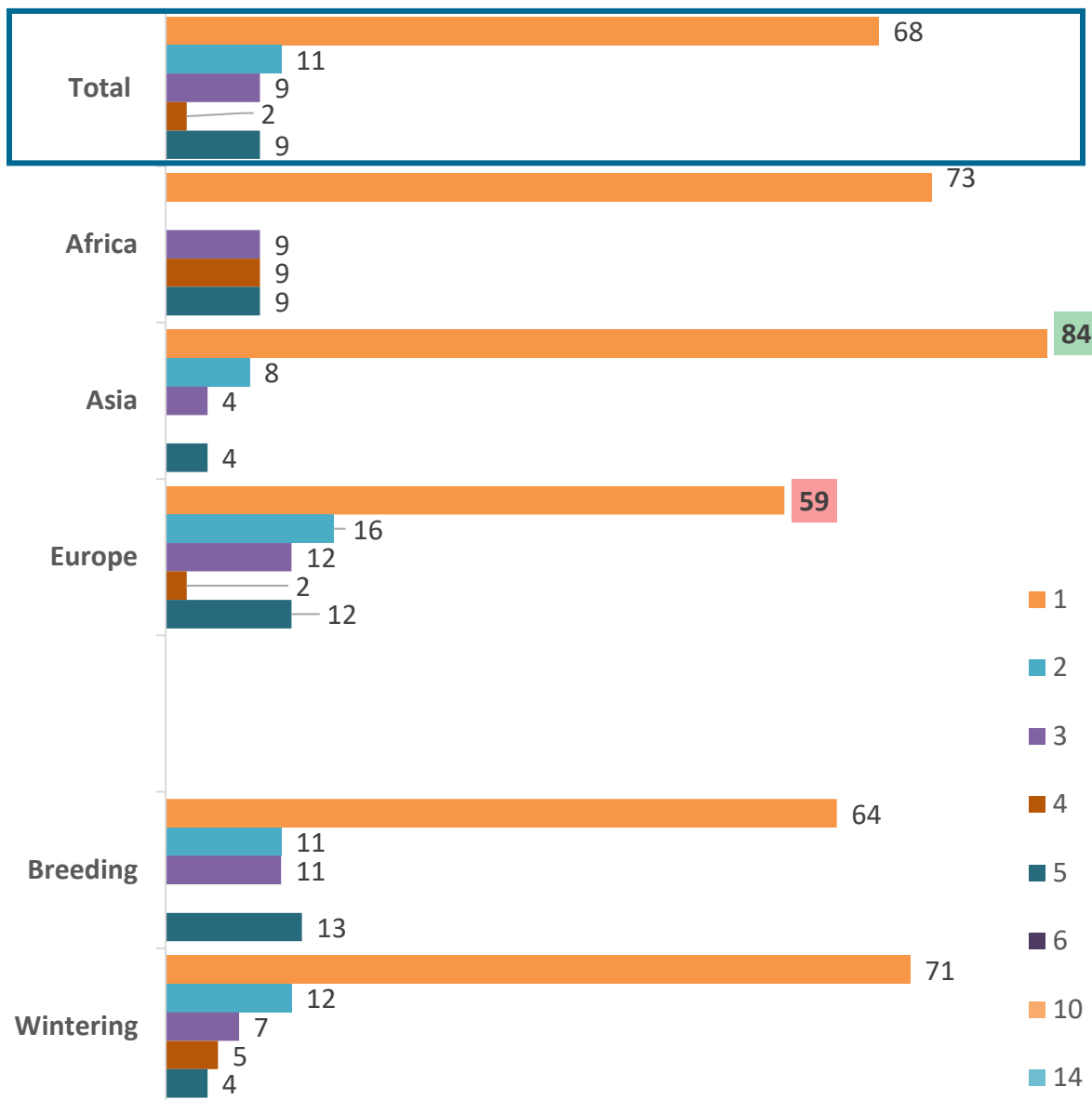
E2. How many falcons have you lost this way?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=87

# LOSS OF TRAINED FALCONS DUE TO ELECTROCUTION – CONTINENTS

Among falconers who lost birds to electrocution, more than four out of five in Asia (84%) had lost one falcon. Three quarters in Africa (73%) and over half in Europe (59%) had also lost one bird this way. In Europe, falconers reported the highest numbers of falcons lost to electrocution.



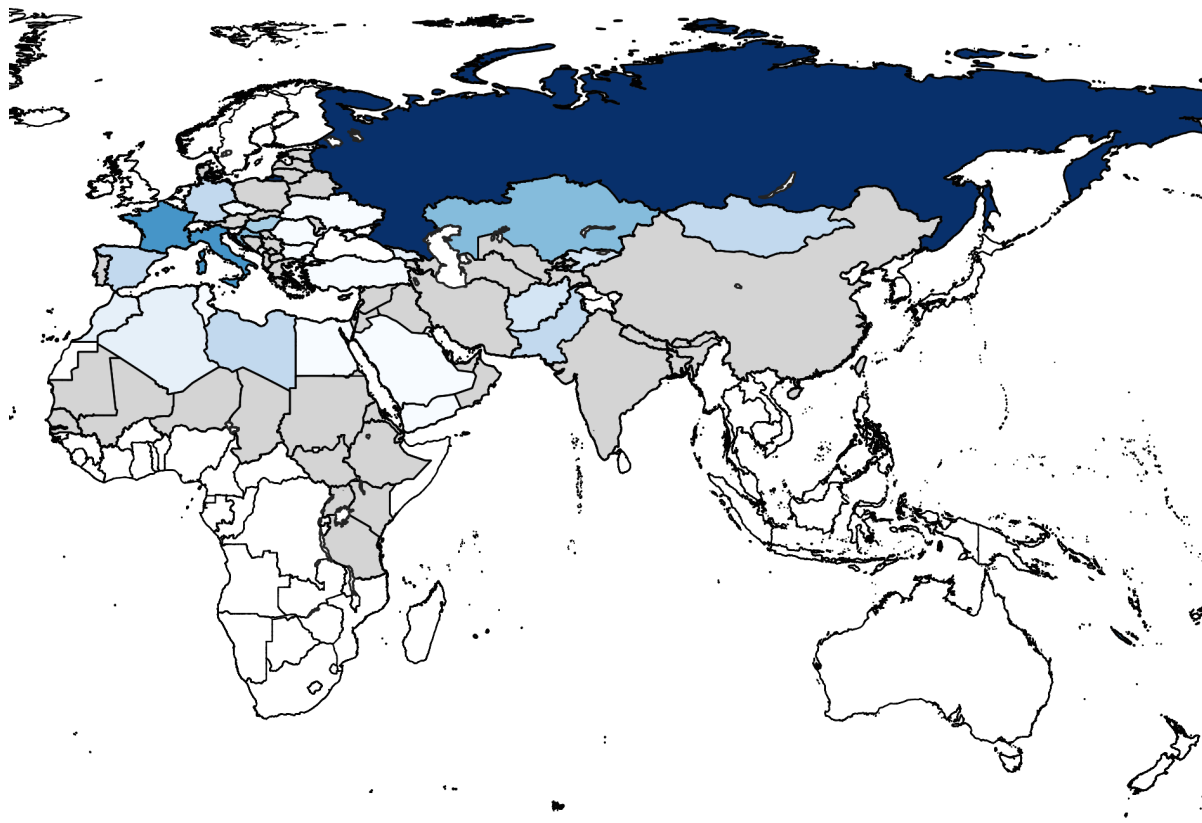
E2. How many falcons have you lost this way?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=87

# LOSS OF TRAINED FALCONS DUE TO ELECTROCUTION – COUNTRIES

Respondents declared loss of trained falcons due to electrocution in 27 countries.



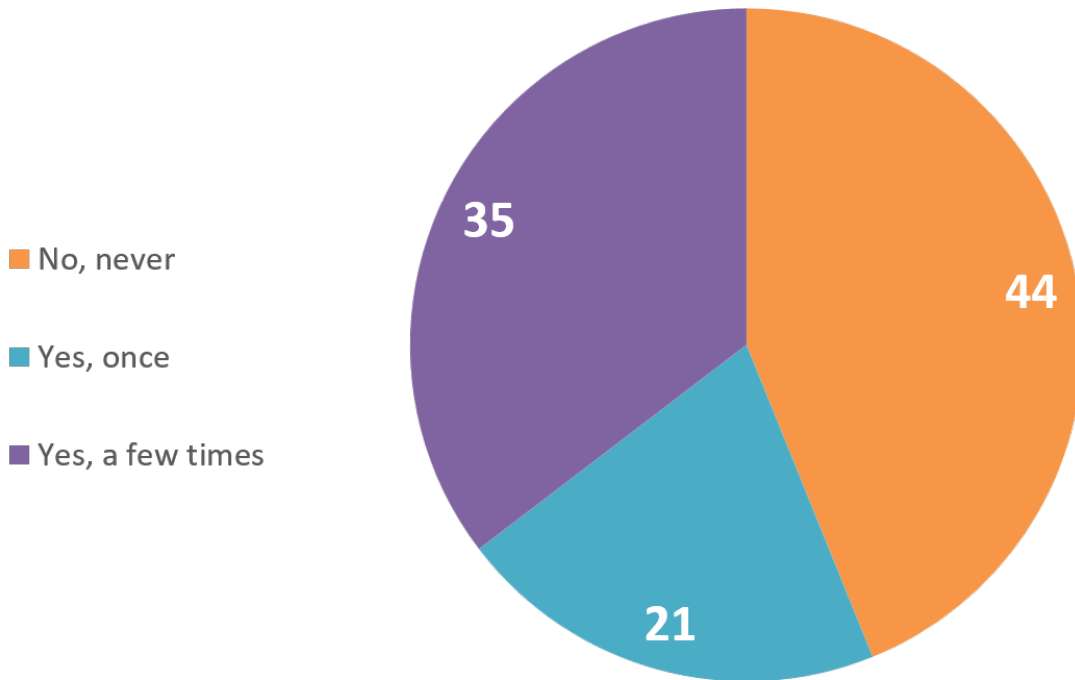
E3. In which countries has that happened?

N=81

Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 12. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# SEEING A WILD FALCON DEAD DUE TO ELECTROCUTION

More than half of respondents (56%) had seen an electrocuted wild falcon, and one third (35%) had seen this a few times.

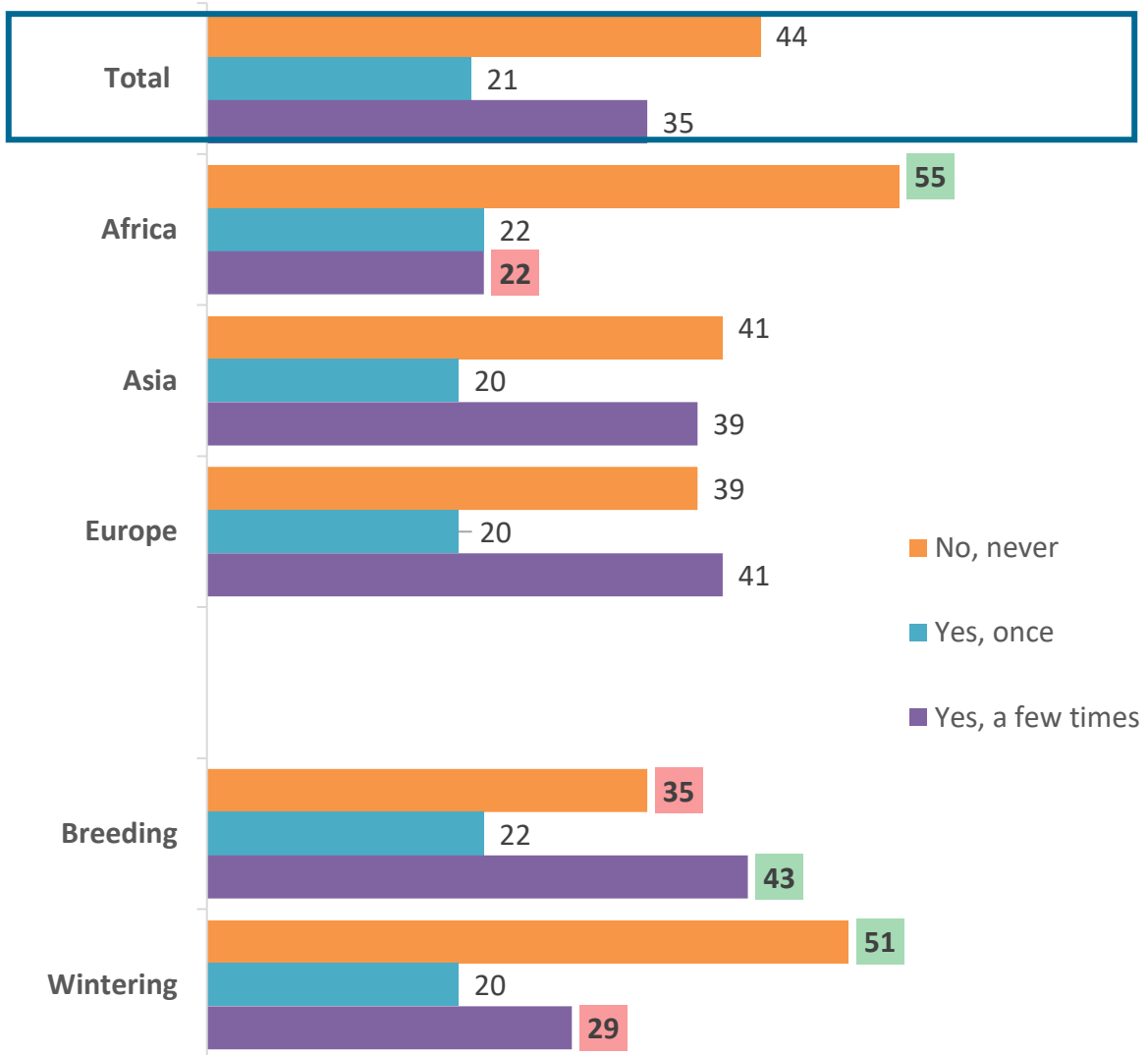


Data in %  
N=306

E4. Have you ever seen a wild falcon dead due to electrocution, i.e. bird dead on a power line or its pylon?

# SEEING A WILD FALCON DEAD DUE TO ELECTROCUTION

Almost half of respondents from Africa (45%) had seen wild falcon electrocuted, Three in five falconers in Asia (59%) and Europe (61%) had witnessed this. More respondents from breeding range countries witnessed electrocution of wild falcons - almost three in five (57%), while in wintering area slightly less than half (49%).

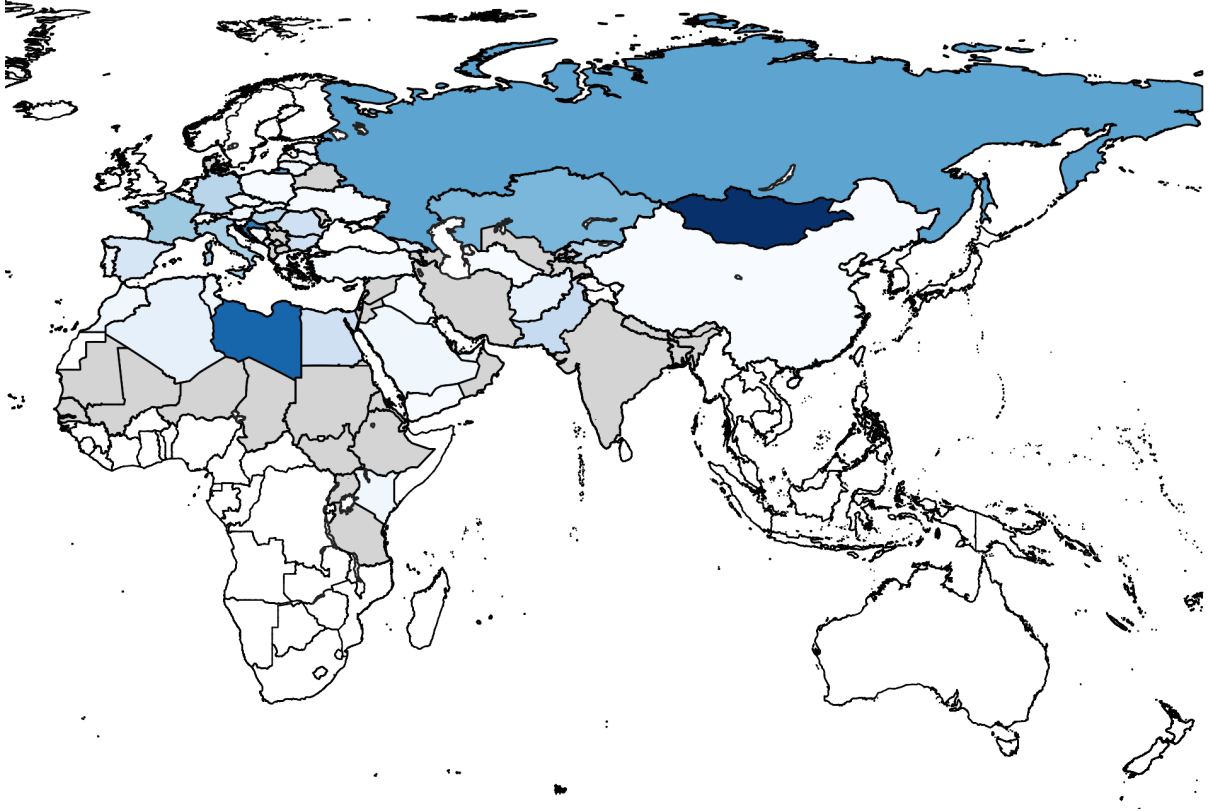


E4. Have you ever seen a wild falcon dead due to electrocution, i.e. bird dead on a power line or its pylon?

Data in %  
N=306

# SEEING A WILD FALCON DEAD DUE TO ELECTROCUTION – COUNTRIES

Respondents reported witnessing electrocuted falcons in 43 countries.



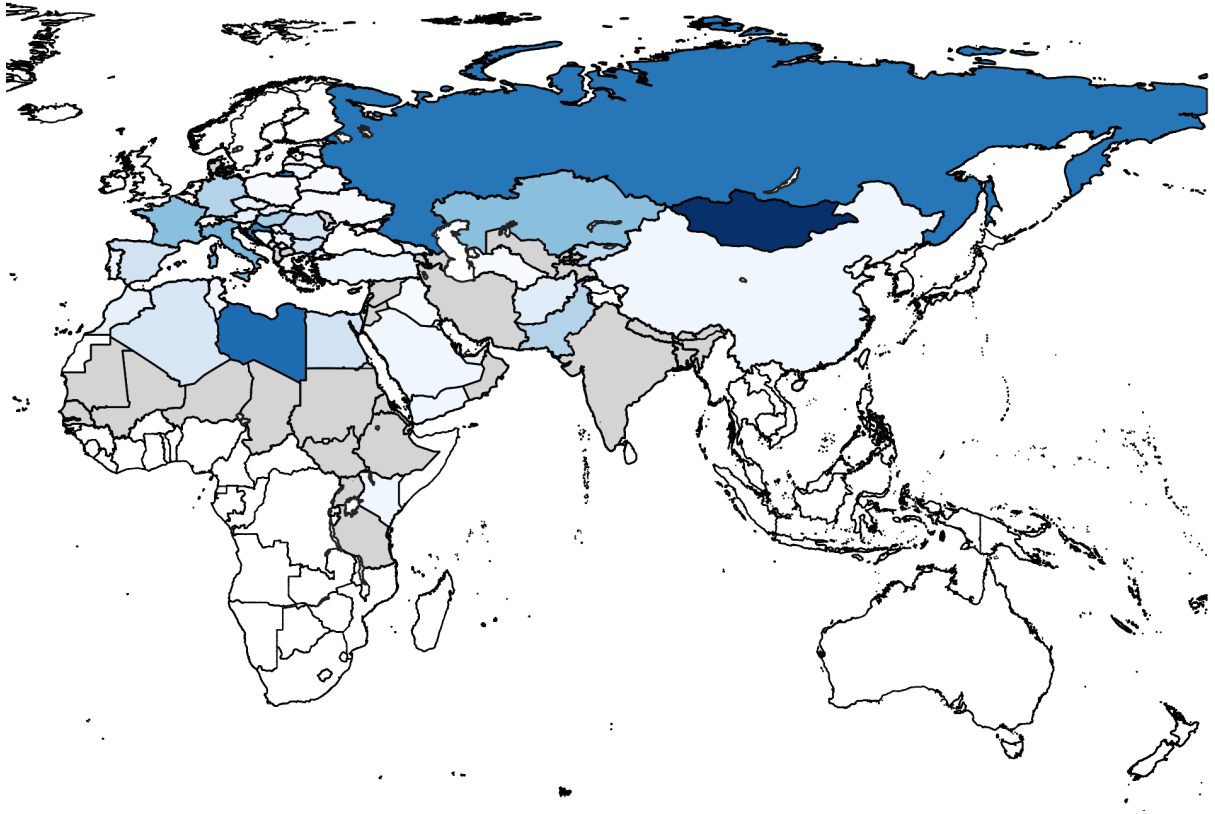
E5. In which countries has that happened?

N=159

Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 24. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# SEEING A WILD FALCON DEAD DUE TO ELECTROCUTION - REPORTED

Respondents reported witnessing electrocuted wild or trained falcons in 46 countries. The lack of reports for other countries does not mean there are no dangerous lines there.



E5. In which countries has that happened?

N=159

Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 26. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# FALCONRY AND FALCONS

## FALCONRY AND FALCONS



Saker falcons © Gabor Papp

Sakers and other non-hybrid falcons (both captive-bred and wild) were much less popular, especially in Europe, while in Africa and Asia falconers' preferences for birds of prey used in falconry remained more stable. The traditional practice of releasing falcons after the season was still widespread, considered a low-impact conservation measure. Interest in hybrids bred for trials and contests had grown, while in Europe interest in hawks and eagles was rising.

More than half of respondents (56%) stated they had not kept any wild saker in the past five years. Ten years ago, only one in three (29%) reported the same. This increase was largely due to the inclusion of European countries in the current survey, where 87% reported not keeping wild sakers. When considering only Africa and Asia, the level of wild saker ownership was similar to the previous survey.

A similar trend applied to other wild falcons: two in five respondents (43%) reported not keeping any in the past five years, compared to only one fifth (21%) ten years ago. In Europe, 71% reported not keeping any wild falcons. More than half (53%) reported not keeping any captive-bred saker in the past five years, compared to less than one third (29%) in the previous survey.

## FALCONRY AND FALCONS



Handling of a saker falcon © Charles Miller

Experience levels varied: two in five respondents (38%) had practiced falconry for more than 20 years, one third (32%) for 11–20 years, and one sixth (16%) for 6–10 years. In Europe, nearly half (47%) had more than 20 years' experience, while Africa had the youngest group – one fifth (19%) had practiced for only 1–5 years, and just one quarter (28%) for more than 20 years.

Regarding veterinary care, a quarter of falconers (23%) took all their birds to falconry hospitals or vets (another 3% took some), half did so only when birds were sick (49%), and a quarter never did (25%). Ten years ago, more than half (53%) never visited vets. In Europe, only 10% reported never doing so.

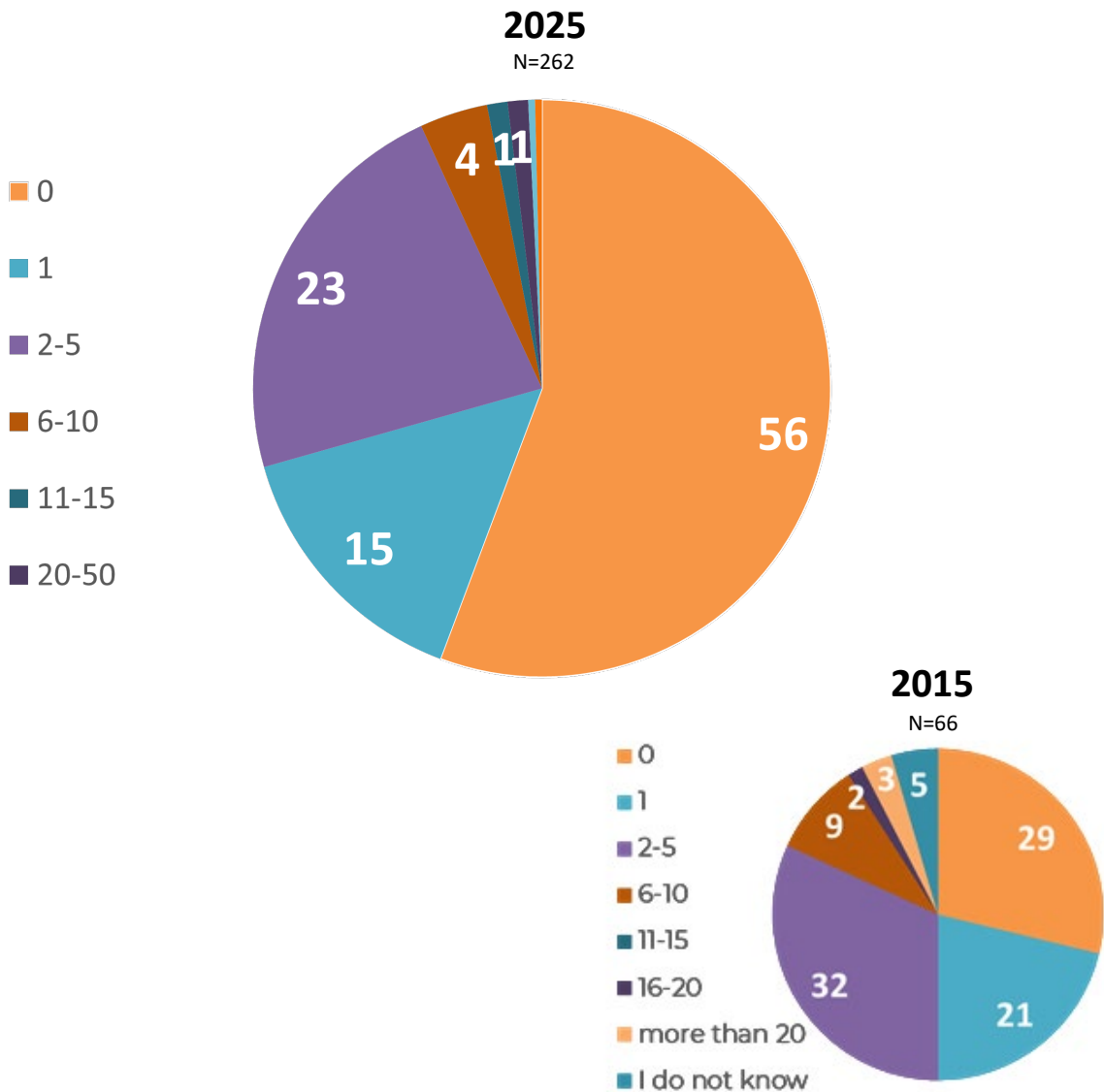
Two thirds (62%) had not trapped falcons themselves, with Europe at 91%, Africa at 38%, and Asia at 21%. Ten years ago, less than half (44%) reported not trapping, indicating more trappers in Asia and Africa now than before.

Falconers in Europe almost never used wild sakers (90%). In Africa, three quarters (74%) released sakers after the season (38% released all, 35% some), while 16% kept them. In Asia, 35% released all, 20% some, and 11% kept them. Similarly, European falconers rarely used wild falcons (87%). In Africa, four in five (82%) released falcons after the season (37% all, 46% some), while 9% kept them.

# NUMBER OF OWNED WILD SAKER FALCONS

More than half of respondents (56%) reported not having any wild saker in the past five years. A quarter (23%) had 2–5 wild Sakers, and one in six (15%) had one. Only 6% kept six or more during that period.

Ten years ago, a significantly lower share had none – only one in three (29%). At that time, one in five (21%) had one bird, another third (32%) had 2–5, and one in seven (14%) had six or more.

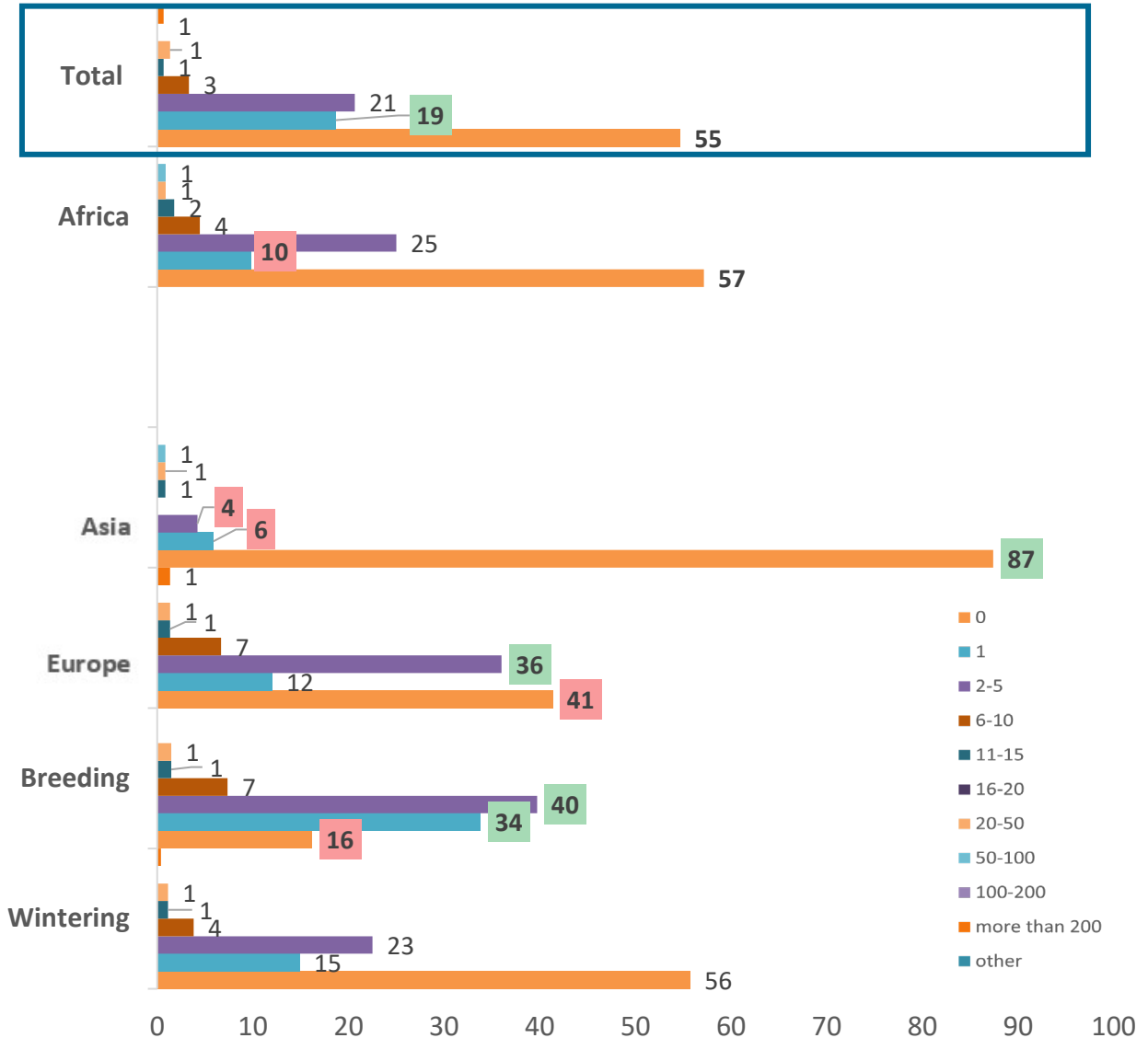


A2: How many wild saker falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number. By “wild falcons” we mean birds taken from the wild, not born in captivity.

Data in %

# NUMBER OF OWNED WILD SAKER FALCONS

Only 13% of respondents in Europe reported having at least one wild saker in the past five years. In Africa, three quarters (74%) had 1–5 wild sakers, with the lowest share (16%) reporting none. In Asia, two fifths (41%) reported having none, while a slightly smaller share (36%) had 2–5 wild sakers during that period.



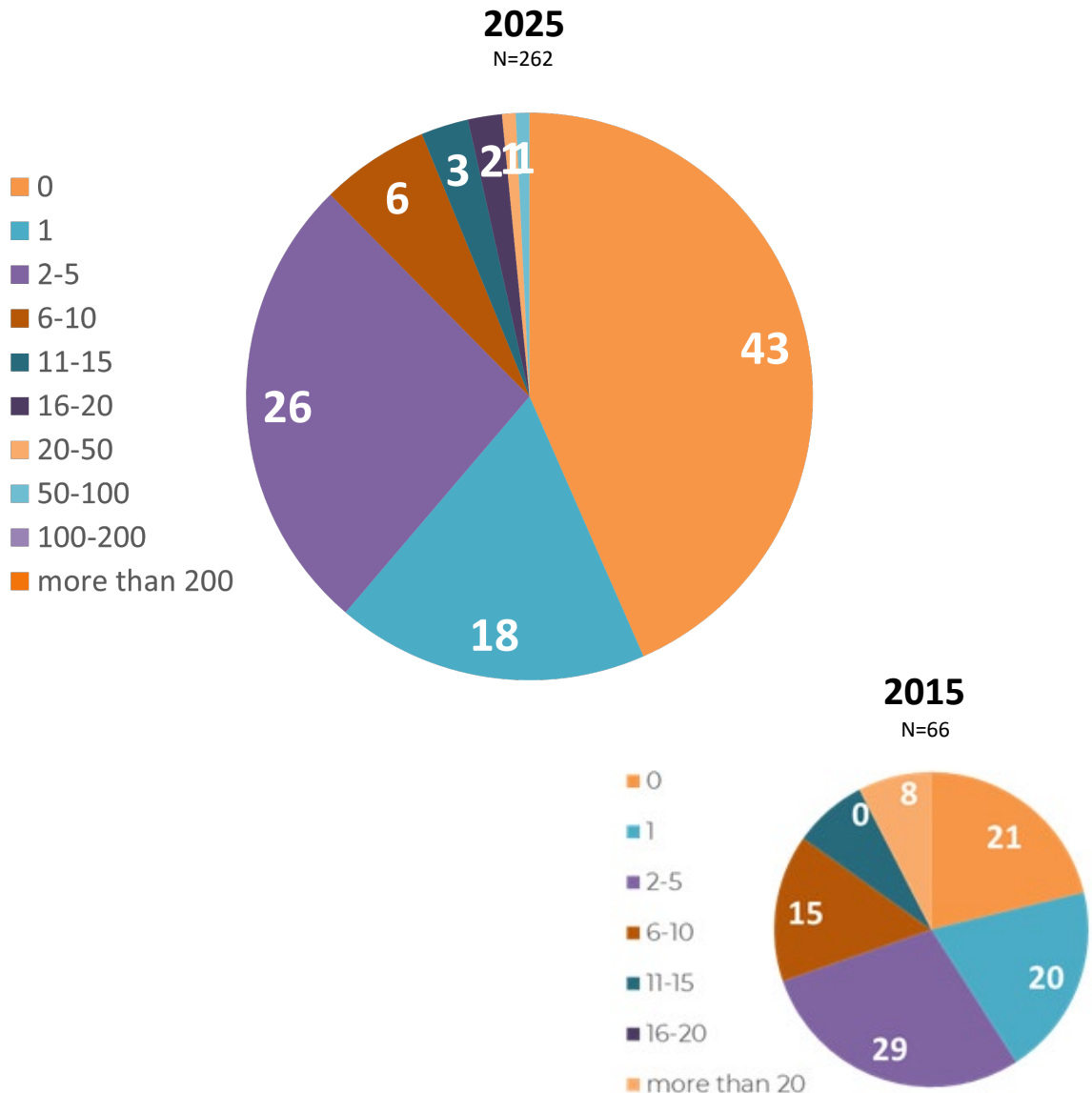
A2: How many wild saker falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number. By “wild falcons” we mean birds taken from the wild, not born in captivity.

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=262

# NUMBER OF OTHER WILD FALCONS OWNED

Two in five respondents (43%) reported not having any other wild falcon in the past five years. A quarter (26%) had 2–5 wild falcons, and one in five (18%) had one. Six percent had 6–10, and 7% had 11 or more during that period. Ten years ago, a significantly lower share (21%) reported having none. At that time, more respondents had 6–10 falcons (15%) or 20 or more (8%).

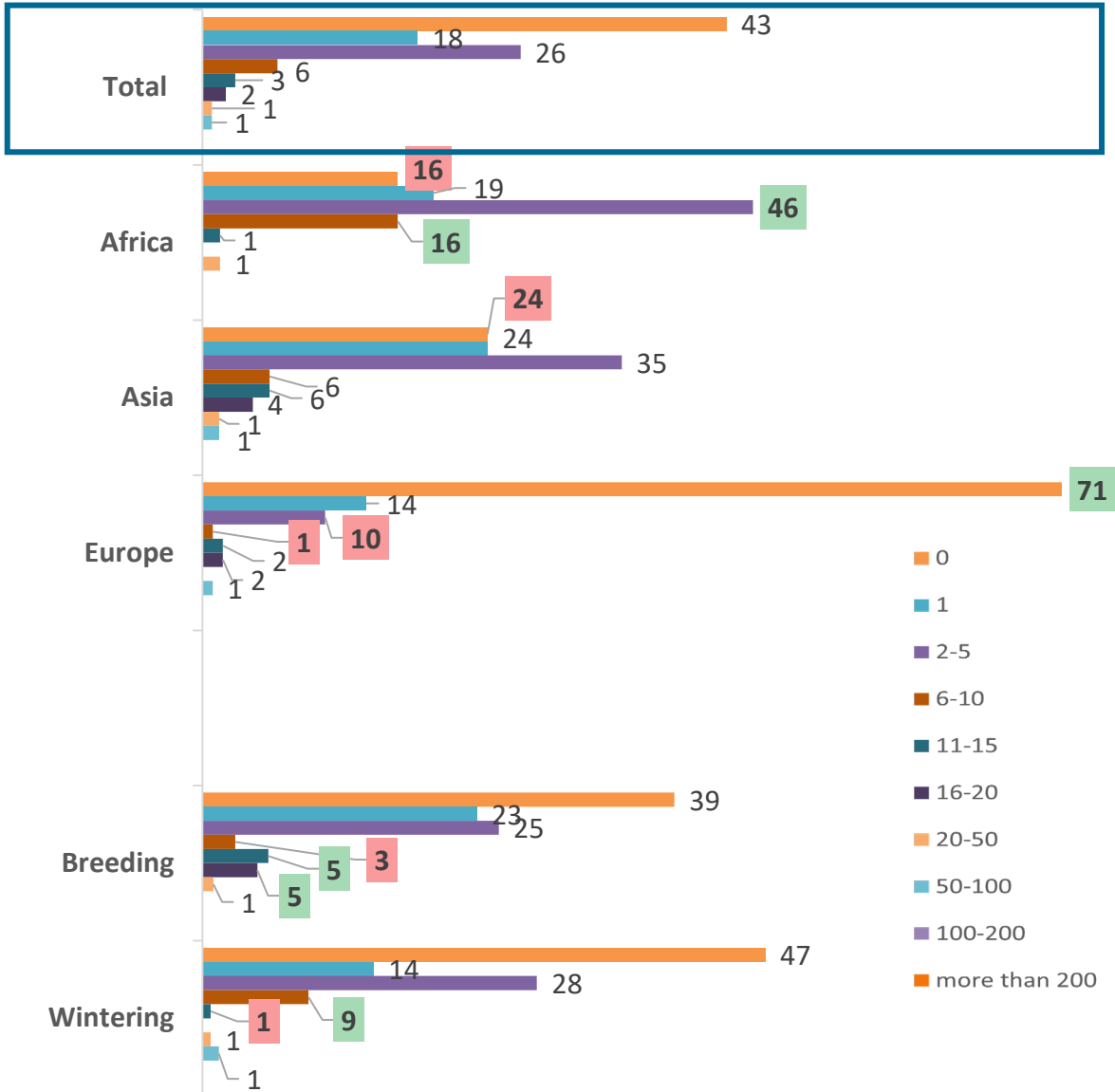


A3b. How many other wild falcons (other than saker falcons) have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number.

Data in %

# NUMBER OF NON SAKER (OTHER) WILD FALCONS OWNED

Half of respondents from Africa (46%) had 2–5 other wild falcons during last five years, another one sixth had 6–10 falcons, three quarters in Europe declare to have no other wild falcons; in Asia one third (35%) had 2–5 other wild falcons.



A3b. How many other wild falcons (other than saker falcons) have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number.

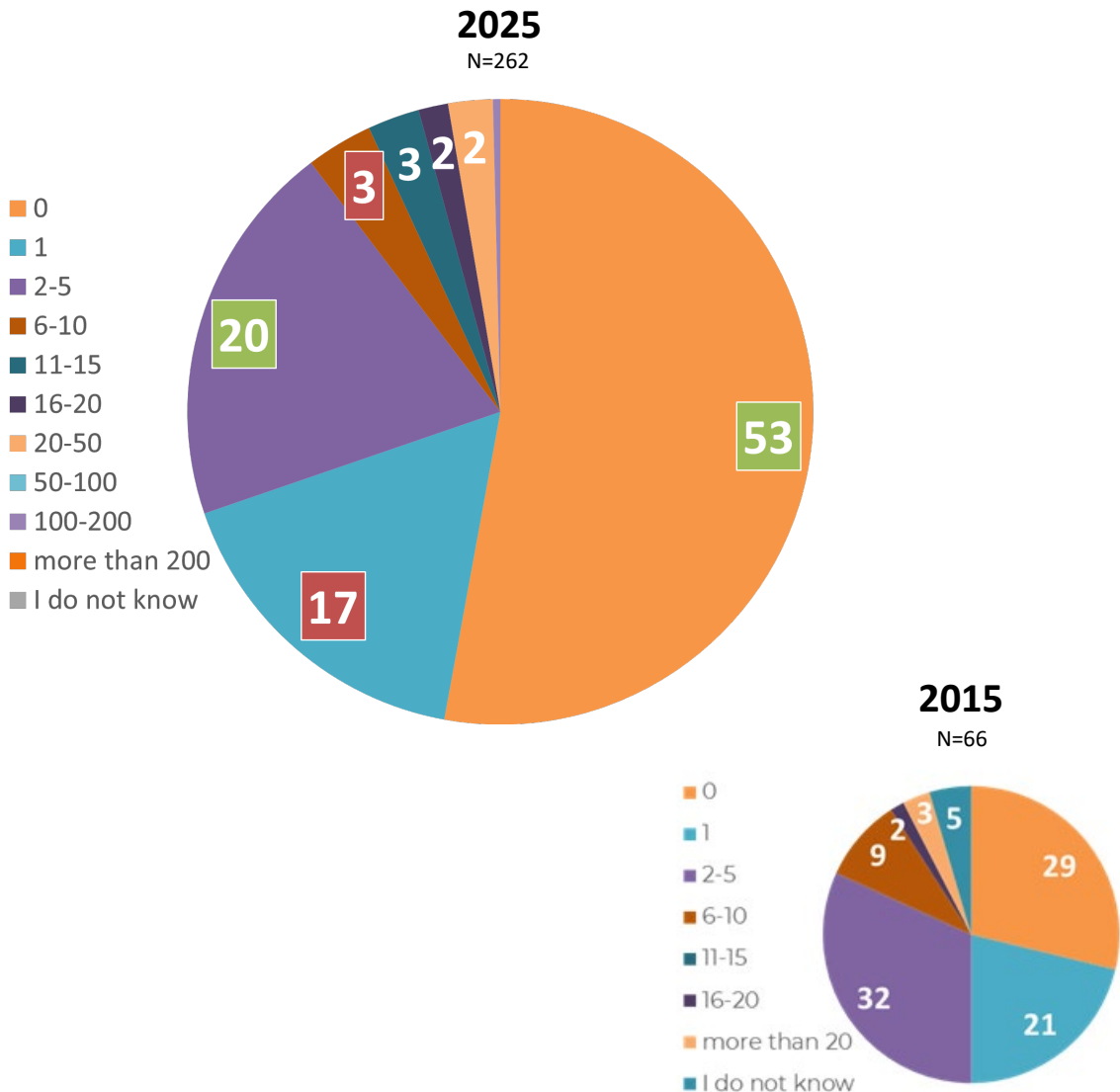
Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=258

# NUMBER OF CAPTIVE BRED SAKER FALCONS OWNED

More than half of respondents (53%) reported not having any captive-bred saker in the past five years. One in five (20%) had 2–5 captive-bred sakers, and one in six (17%) had one bird.

Ten years ago, a significantly lower share reported having none – less than one third (29%).



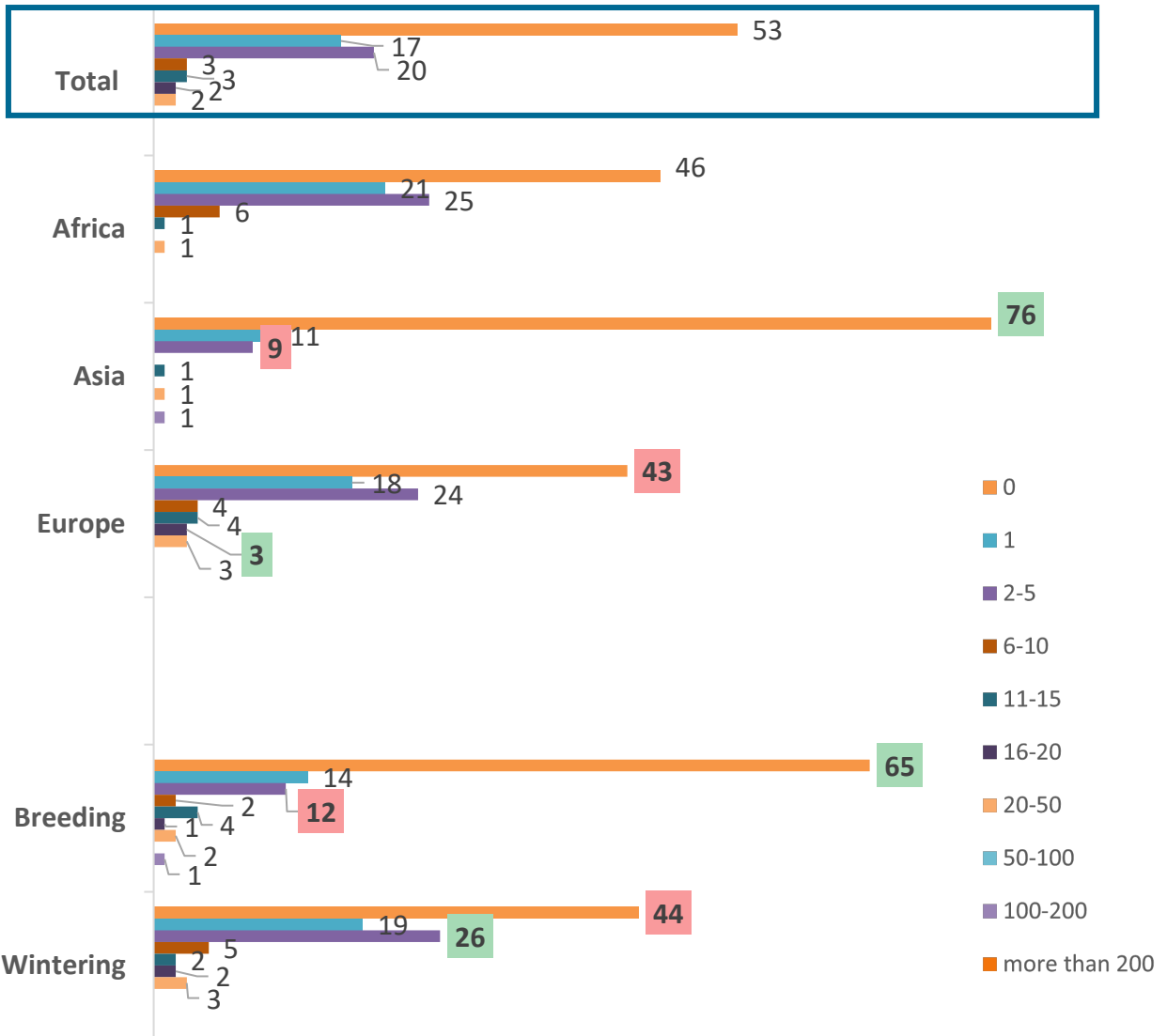
A4. How many captive bred saker falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number.

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# NUMBER OF CAPTIVE BRED SAKER FALCONS OWNED

Three quarters of respondents from Asia had no captive-bred sakers. In Africa, one quarter reported having 2–5 captive-bred sakers, and one fifth (21%) had one. Europe showed similar figures: one quarter (24%) had 2–5 captive-bred sakers, and one fifth (18%) had one.



A4. How many captive bred saker falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number.

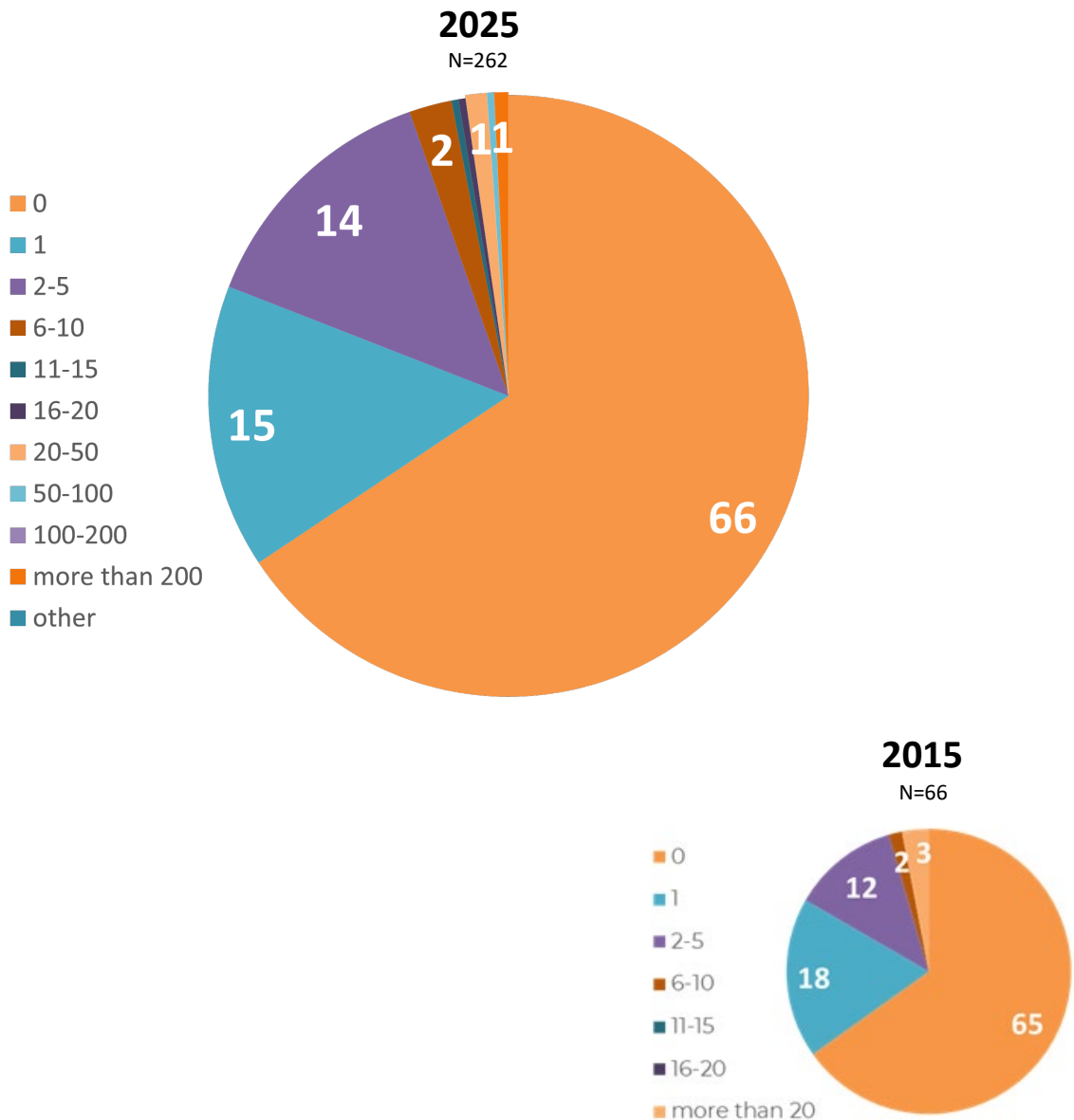
Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=261

# NUMBER OF HYBRID FALCONS OWNED

Two thirds of respondents (66%) reported not having any hybrids in the past five years. One sixth (15%) had one, and a similar share (14%) had 2–5 hybrids.

These results were very similar to those from the survey conducted ten years ago.

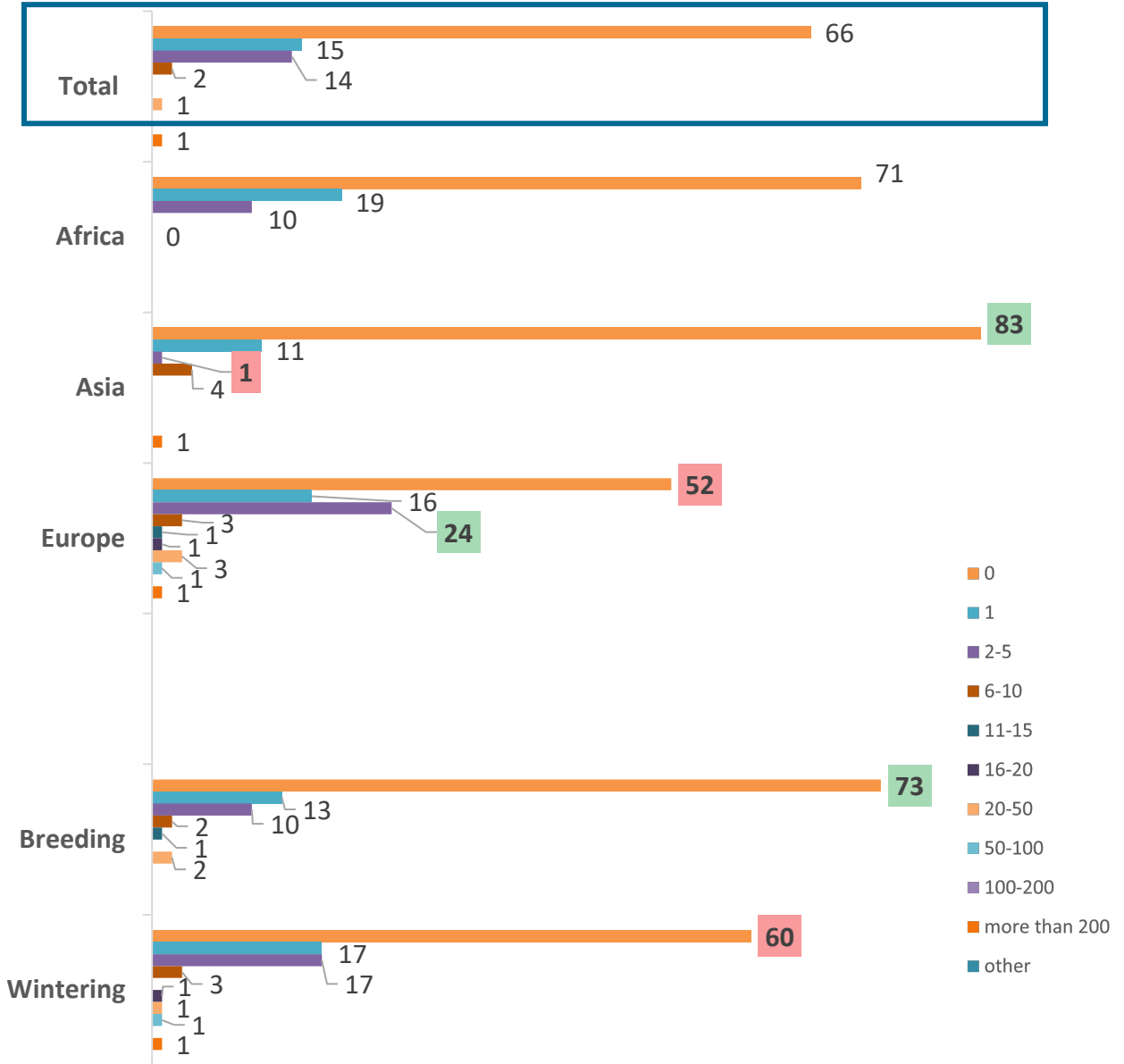


A5. How many hybrid falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number. By “hybrid” we mean falcons the ancestors of which belong to two or more species.

Data in %

# NUMBER OF HYBRID FALCONS OWNED

More than four out of five respondents (83%) in Asia reported not having any hybrids in the past five years. In Africa, one in five (19%) had one hybrid, and one in ten had 2–5 hybrids. In Europe, one quarter (24%) had 2–5 hybrids, and one in six (16%) had one.



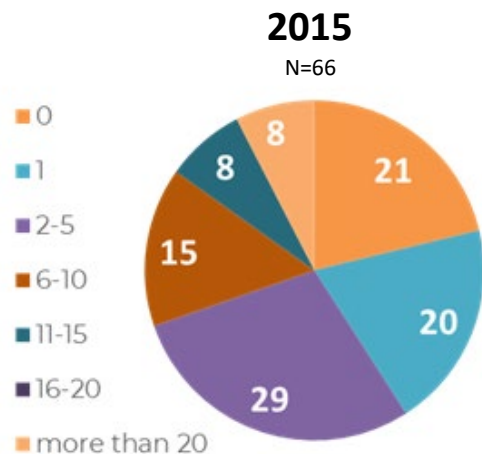
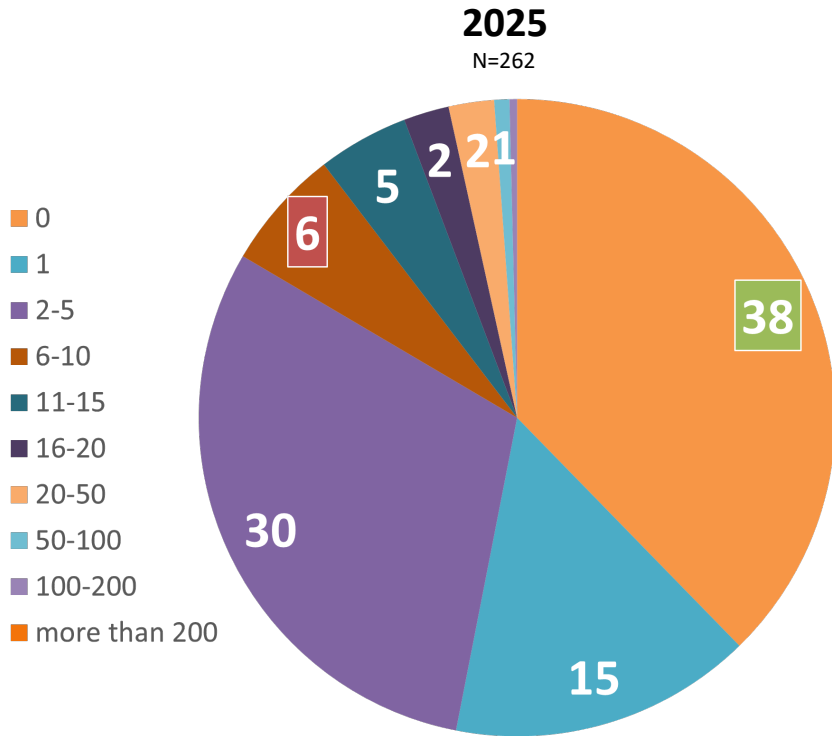
A5. How many hybrid falcons have you owned in the last five years? If it is possible put exact number. By “hybrid” we mean falcons the ancestors of which belong to two or more species.

Data in %  
N=262

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

# NUMBER OF OTHER CAPTIVE BRED FALCONS OWNED

Almost two thirds of respondents (62%) reported having at least one captive-bred falcon (not saker and not hybrid) in the past five years. One third (30%) had 2–5 such falcons, and one in six (15%) had one. Six percent had 6–10 falcons, and 5% had 11–15. Ten years ago, a significantly lower share reported having none – only 21%.



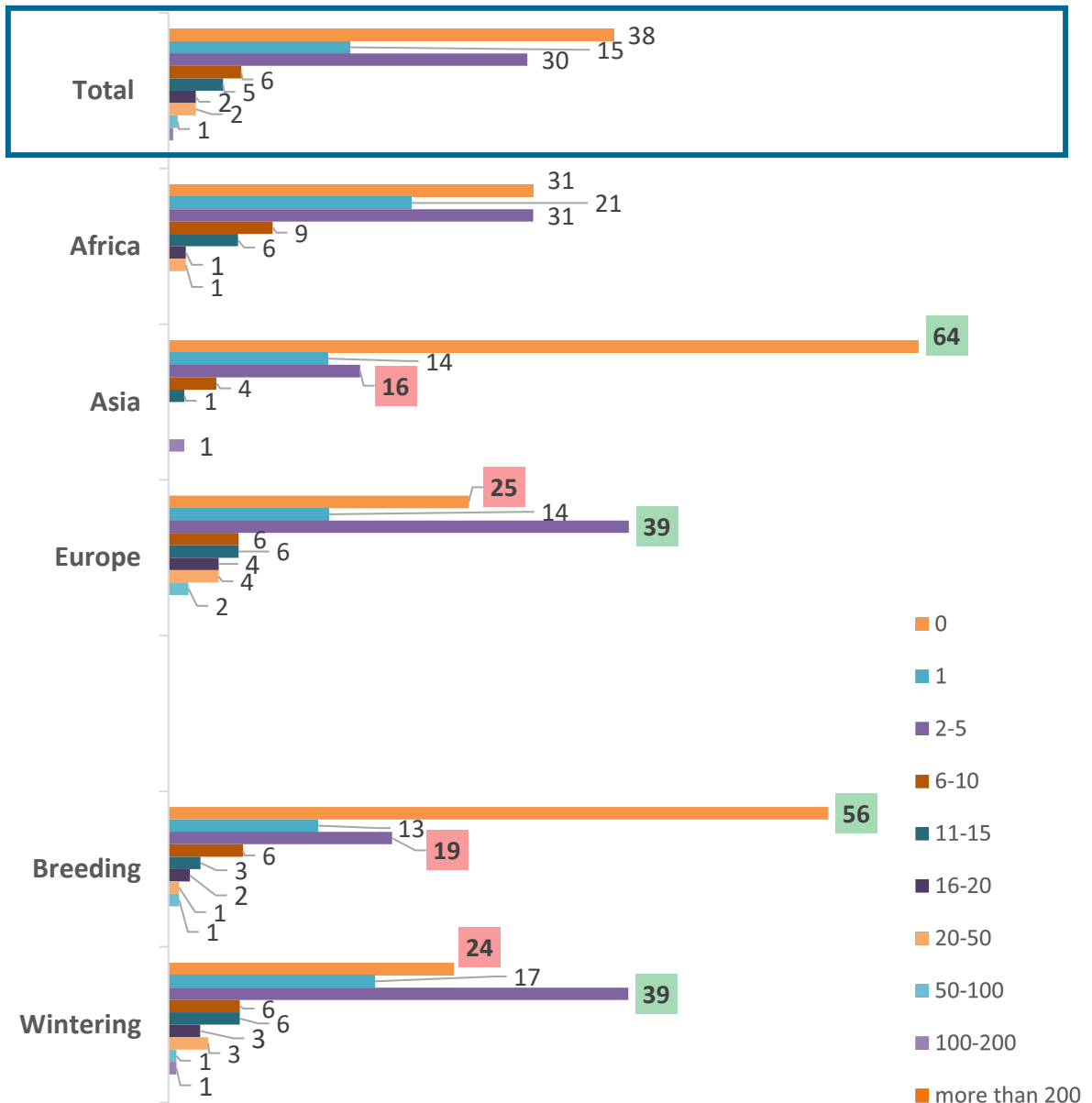
A6. How many captive bred other falcons (not saker falcons and not hybrid) have you owned in the last five years?

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# NUMBER OF OTHER CAPTIVE BRED FALCONS OWNED

Two thirds of respondents in Asia (64%) reported not having any other falcon. In Europe, two out of five (39%) had 2–5 other falcons, and one in seven had one. In Africa, one third (31%) had 2–5 other falcons, and one in five (21%) had one.



A6. How many captive bred other falcons (not saker falcons and not hybrid) have you owned in the last five years?

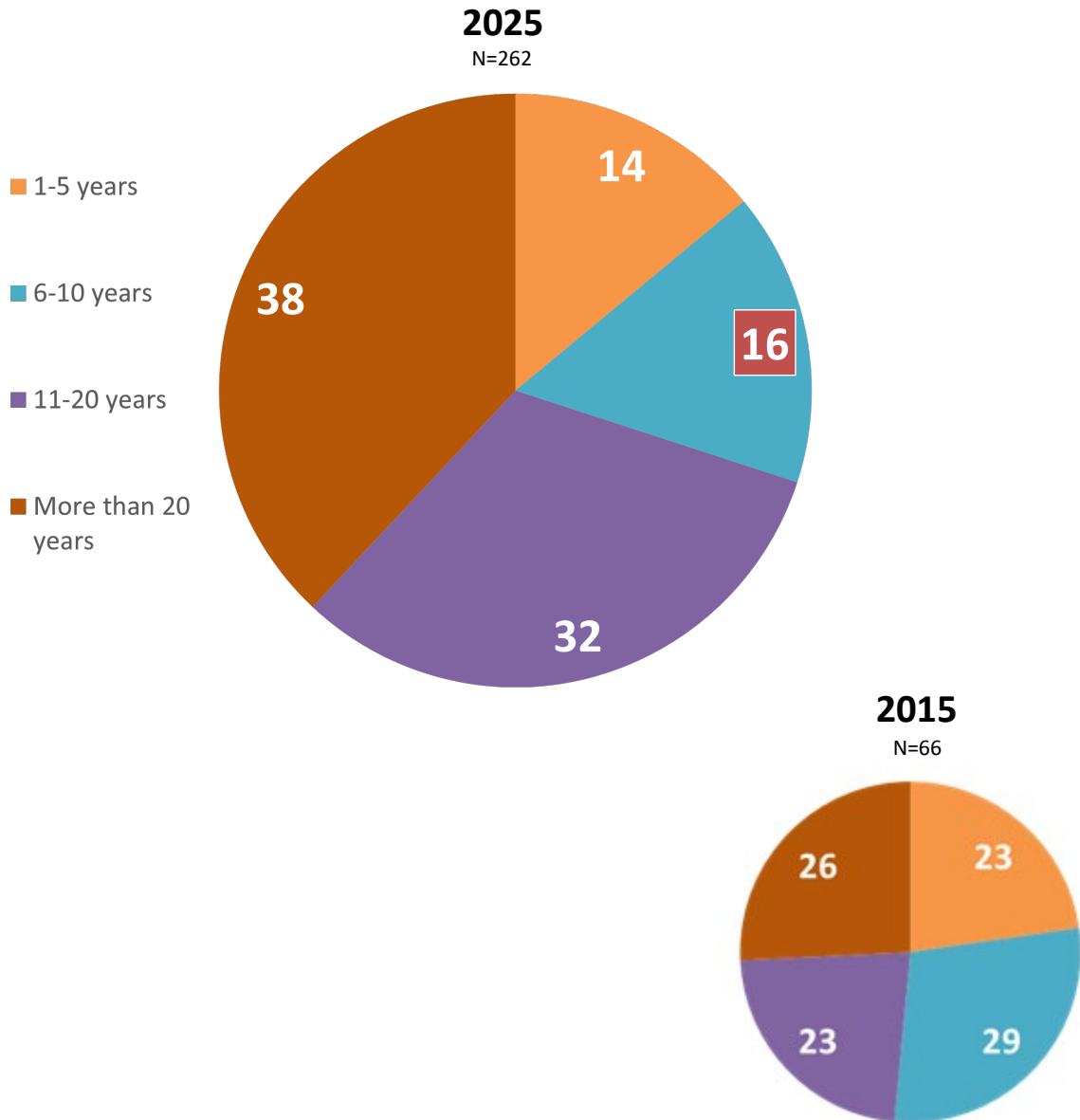
Data in %  
N=260

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

# YEARS OF BEING FALCONER

Two in five respondents (38%) had practiced falconry for more than 20 years, one third (32%) for 11–20 years, and one sixth (16%) for 6–10 years.

Ten years ago, the survey showed a significantly higher proportion of younger falconers.



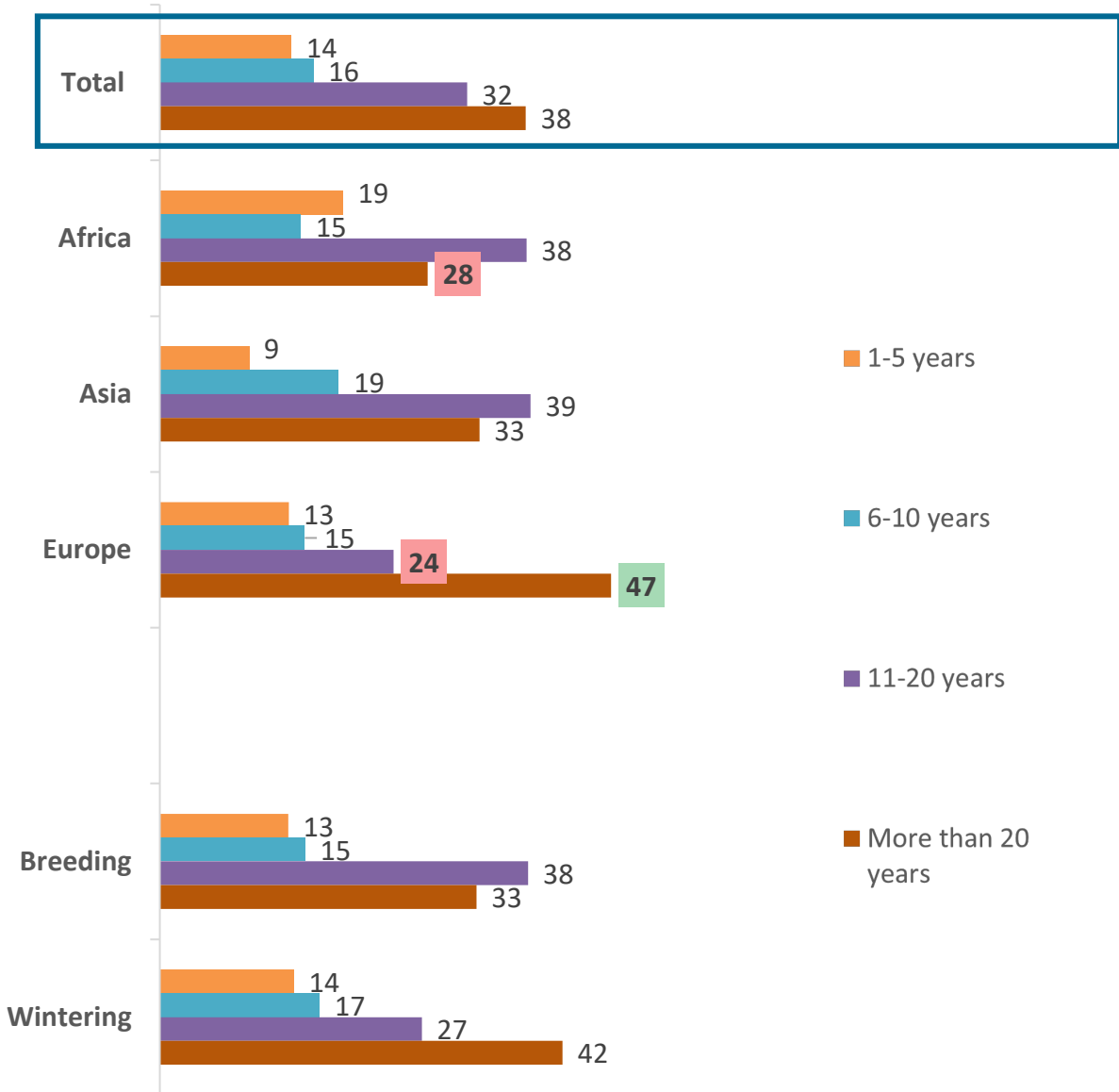
A7. How long have you been a falconer?

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# YEARS OF BEING FALCONER

Half of falconers in Europe (47%) had practiced falconry for more than 20 years. The youngest group was in Africa, where one fifth (19%) had practiced for only 1–5 years, and just one quarter (28%) for more than 20 years.



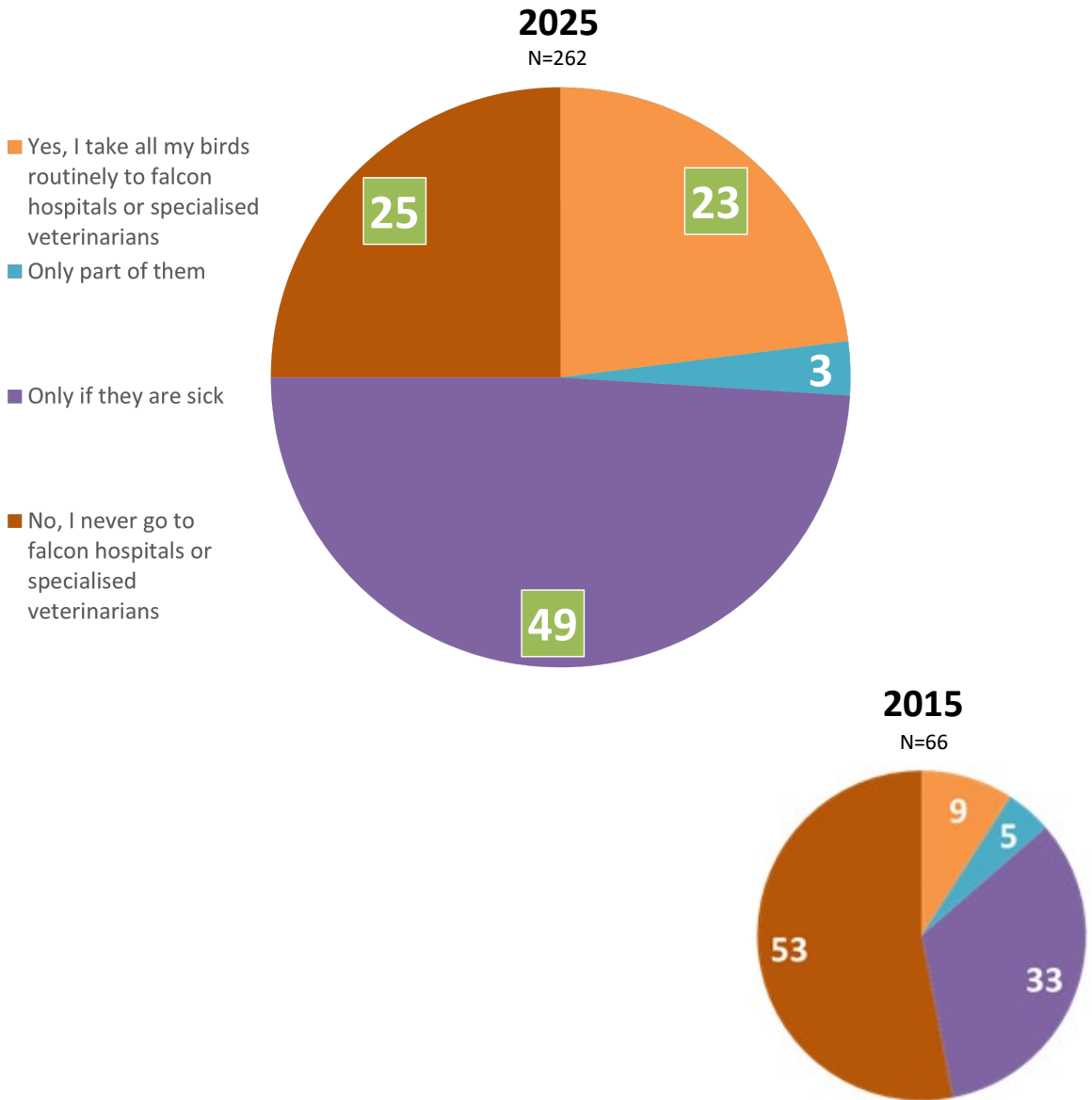
A7. How long have you been a falconer?

Statistically relevant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=262

# FALCONERS AND VETERINARY SERVICES

A quarter of falconers (23%) took all their falcons to falconry hospitals or vets (another 3% took some of their birds), half did so only when the birds were sick (49%), and a quarter never did (25%). Ten years ago, the share of those who never took birds to vets was significantly higher – more than half (53%).



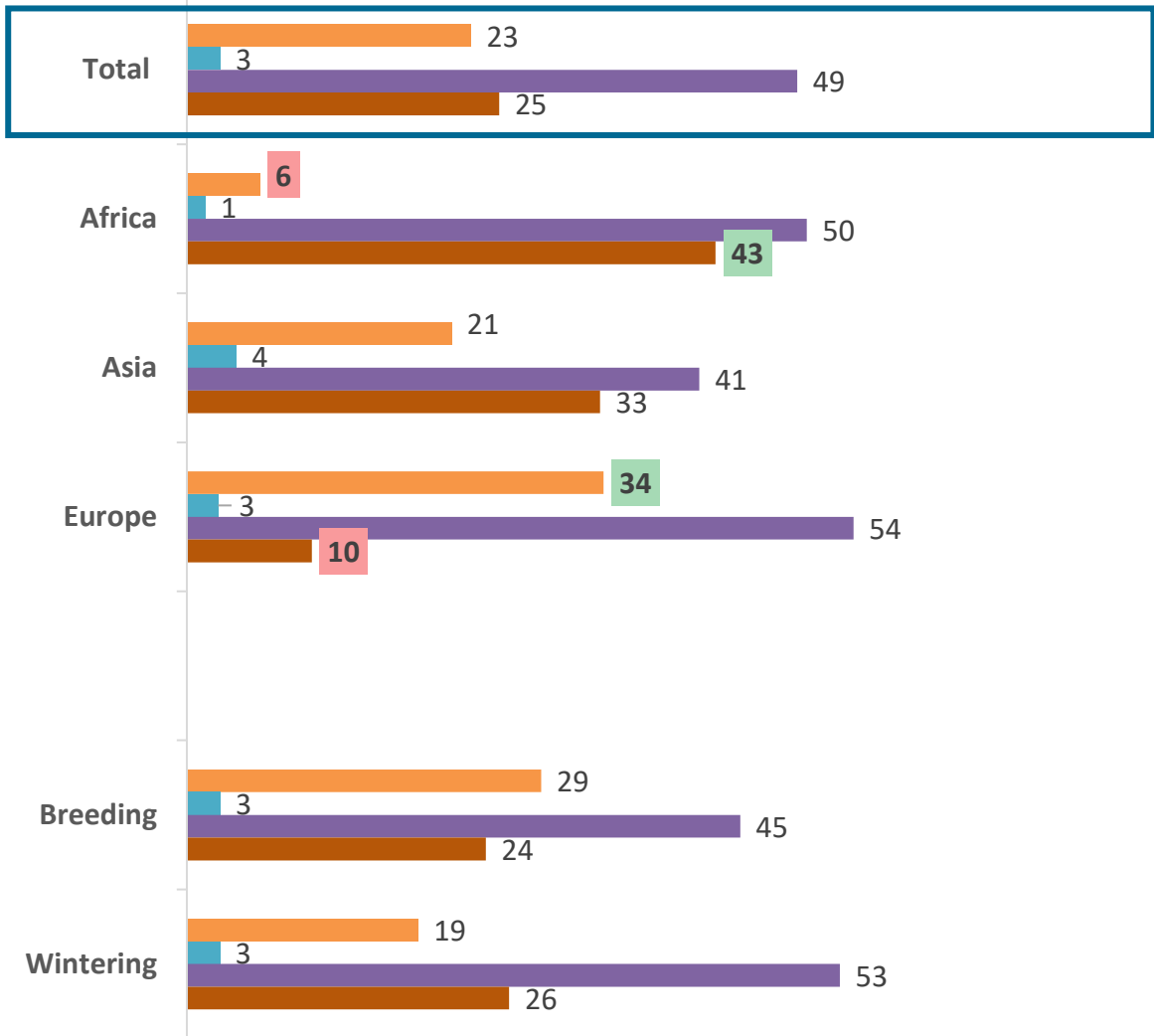
A9. Do you take all your birds to falcon hospitals or specialized veterinarians?

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# FALCONERS AND VETERINARY SERVICES

One third of falconers in Europe (34%) took all their birds to vets, compared to only 6% in Africa. Two fifths of falconers in Africa (43%) never took birds to vets, while one third (33%) did so in Asia.



- Yes, I take all my birds routinely to falcon hospitals or specialised veterinarians
- Only part of them
- Only if they are sick
- No, I never go to falcon hospitals or specialised veterinarians

A9. Do you take all your birds to falcon hospitals or specialized veterinarians?

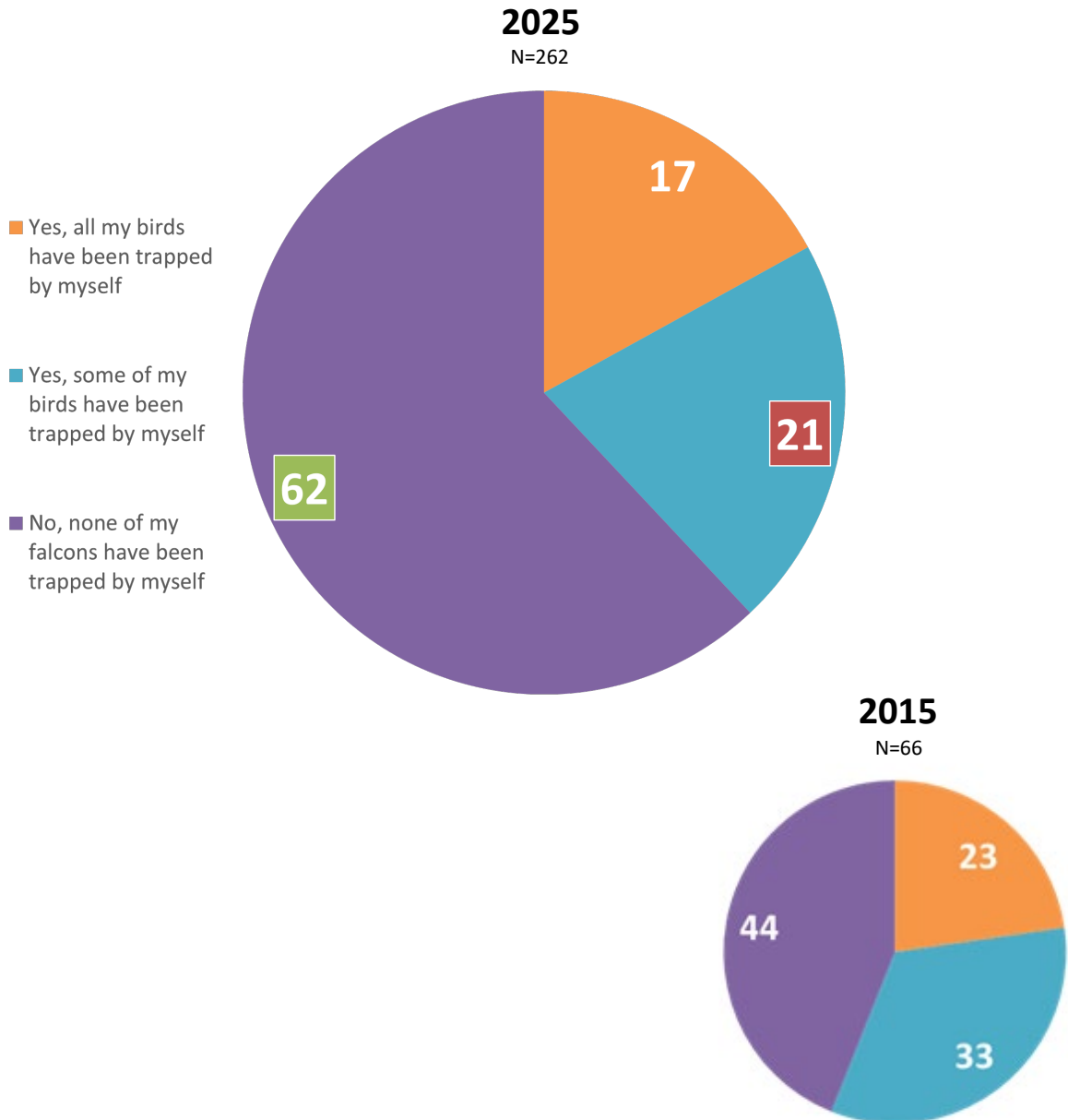
■ ■ Statistically relevant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=262

# PERSONALLY TRAPPING FALCONS

Two thirds of respondents (62%) reported not trapping falcons themselves. One in six (16%) trapped all their birds, and one in five trapped some.

Ten years ago, less than half (44%) reported not trapping falcons.



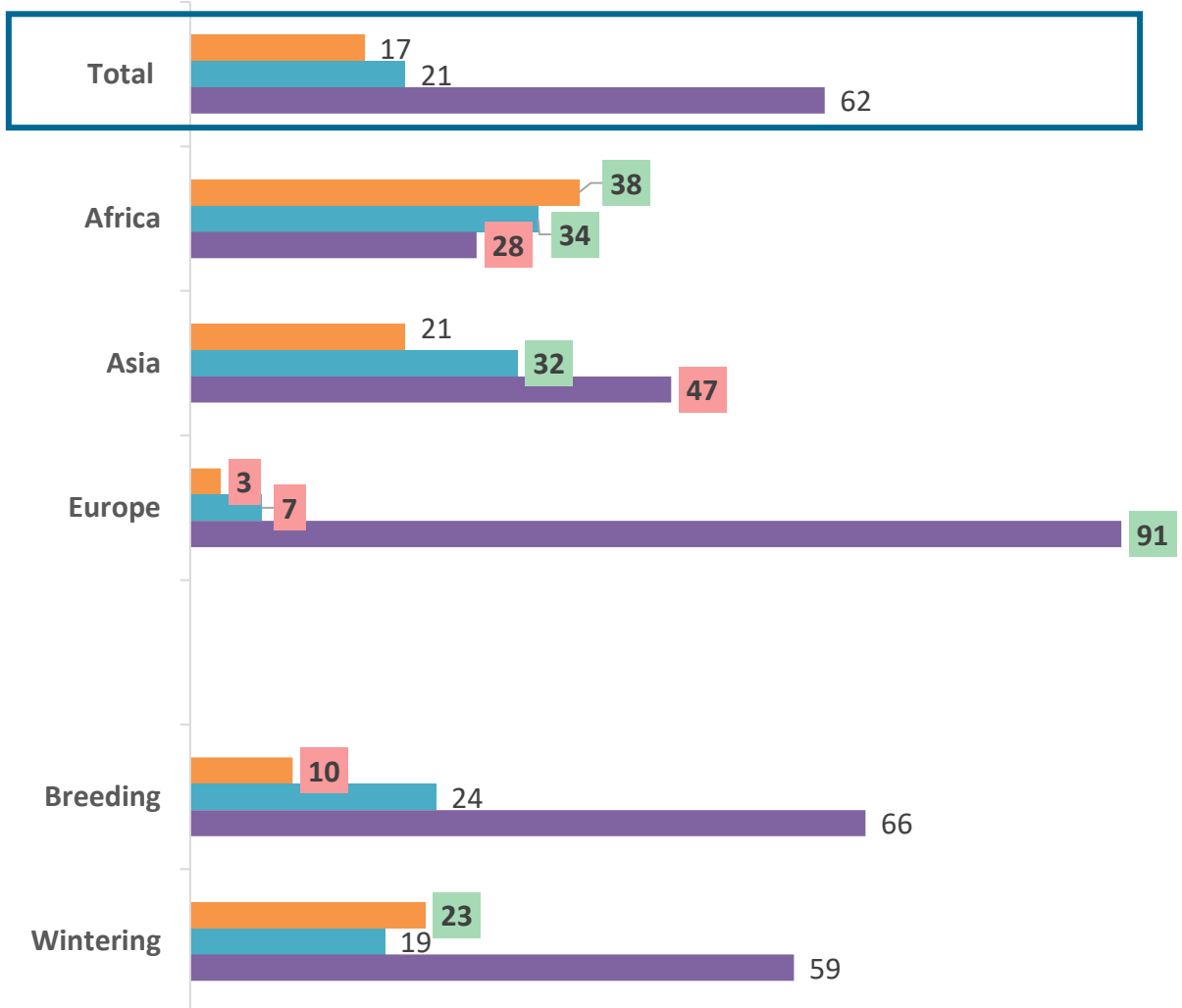
A10. Do you trap falcons for yourself?

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# PERSONALLY TRAPPING FALCONS

Almost all European falconers (91%) did not trap falcons themselves. In Africa, three quarters trapped all their birds (38%) or some (34%). In Asia, one third (32%) trapped some of their falcons, and one in five (21%) trapped all. Significantly more falconers trapped all their falcons in wintering areas (23%) than in breeding ranges (10%).



- Yes, all my birds have been trapped by myself
- Yes, some of my birds have been trapped by myself
- No, none of my falcons have been trapped by myself

A10. Do you trap falcons for yourself?

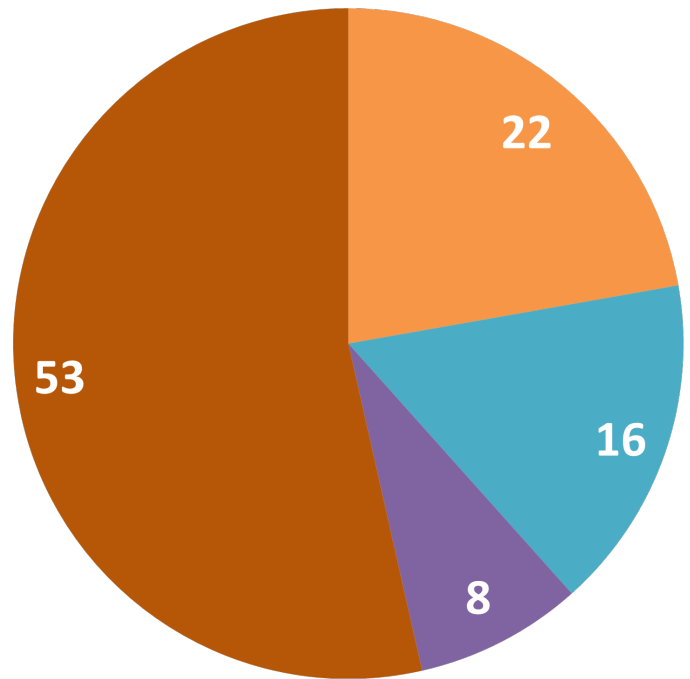
■ ■ Statistically relevant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=262

# RELEASING WILD SAKER FALCONS AFTER HUNTING SEASON

A quarter of falconers (22%) released all their wild sakers after the hunting season, and one in six (16%) released some. One in twelve (8%) did not release any, while more than half (53%) did not keep wild sakers at all.

- Yes, I release back into the wild all of the wild Saker Falcons that I possess at the end of the hunting season
- Yes, I release some of the wild Saker Falcons that I possess back into the wild at the end of the hunting season
- No, I do not release any of them back into the wild
- I never take wild Saker Falcons

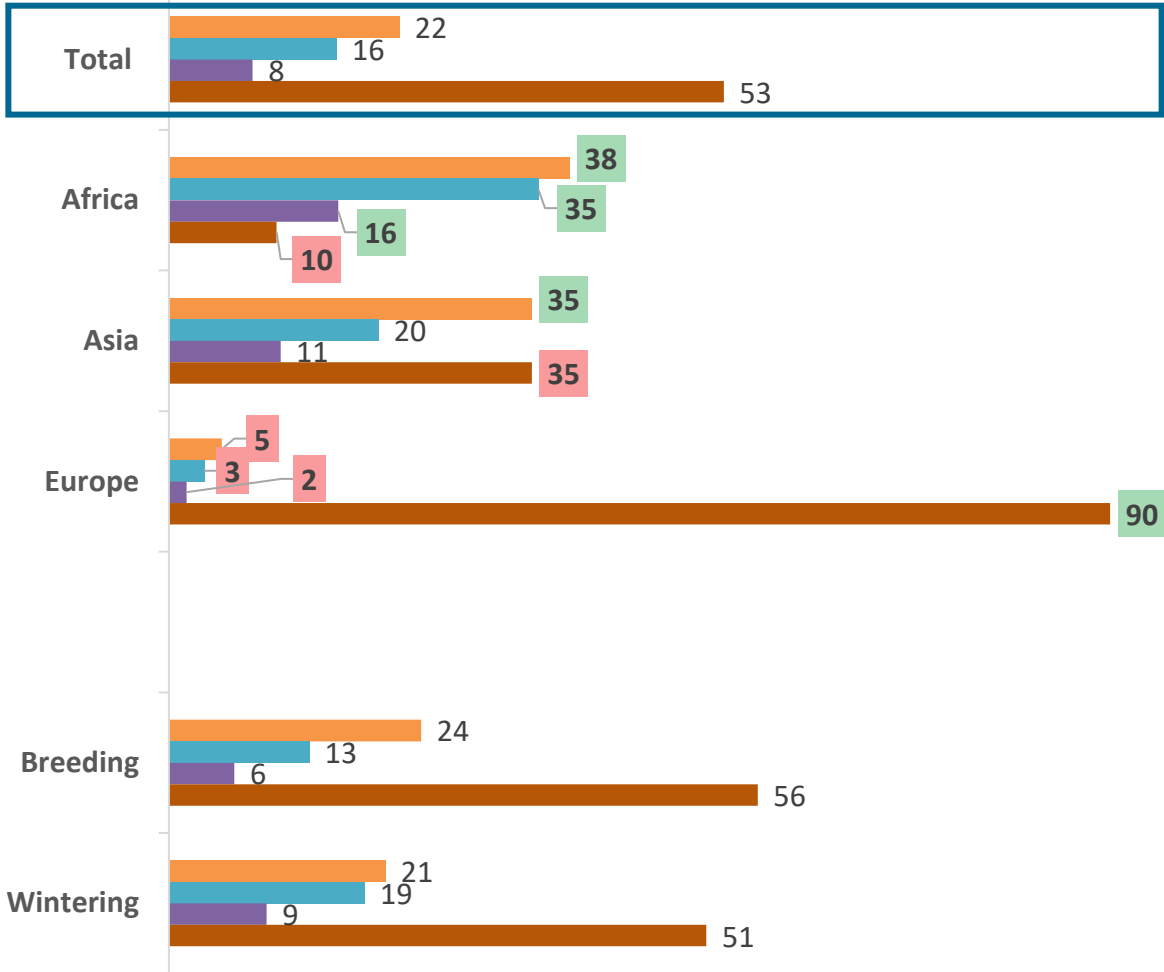


Data in %  
N=262

A11. If you take wild saker falcons, do you release them back into the wild after the hunting season?

# RELEASING WILD SAKER FALCONS AFTER HUNTING SEASON

Falconers in Europe almost never used wild sakers (90%). In Africa, three quarters (74%) released sakers after the season – almost equally, all (38%) or some (35%) – while one sixth (16%) kept them. In Asia, one third (35%) released all sakers, one fifth (20%) released some, and one in nine (11%) kept them after the season.



- Yes, I release back into the wild all of the wild Saker Falcons that I possess at the end of the hunting season
- Yes, I release some of the wild Saker Falcons that I possess back into the wild at the end of the hunting season
- No, I do not release any of them back into the wild
- I never take wild Saker Falcons

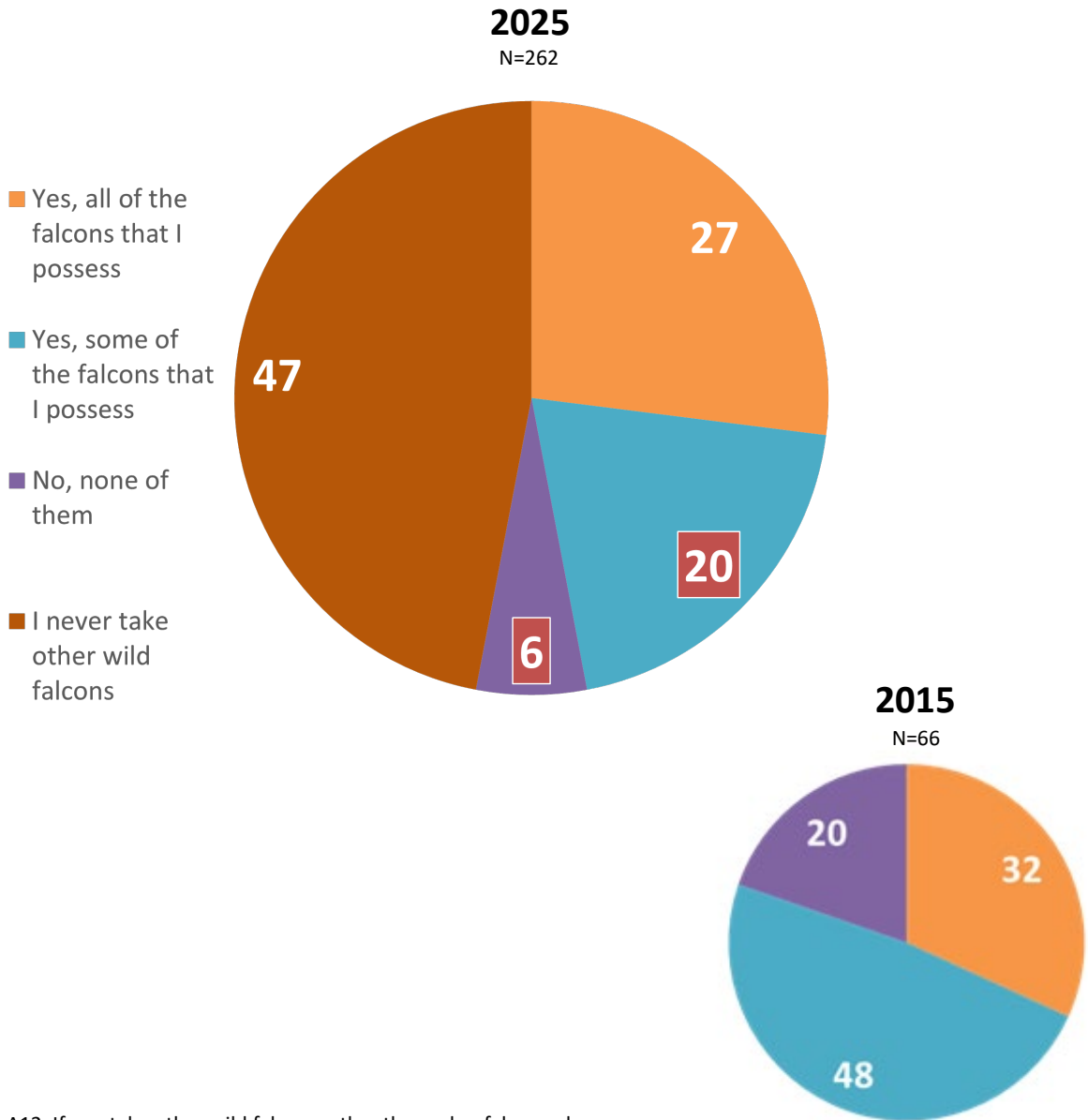
A11. If you take wild saker falcons, do you release them back into the wild after the hunting season?

Data in %  
N=262

■ ■ Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

# RELEASING OTHER WILD FALCONS AFTER HUNTING SEASON

A quarter of falconers (27%) released all their wild falcons after the hunting season, and one fifth (20%) released some. One in sixteen (6%) did not release any, while more than half (53%) did not keep wild falcons. Ten years ago, among those who kept wild falcons, one third (32%) released all, half released some, and one fifth did not release any.



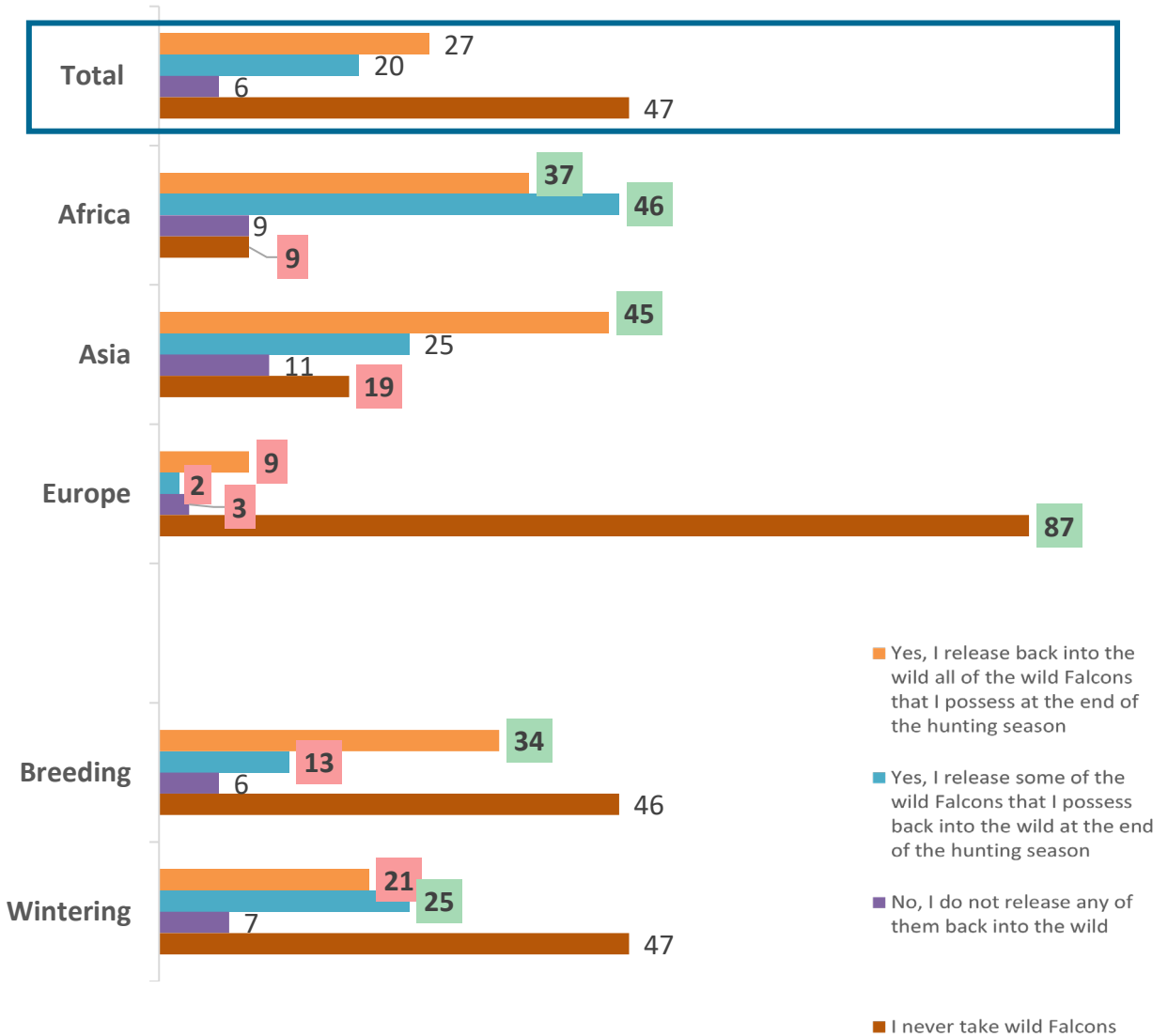
A12. If you take other wild falcons, other than saker falcons, do you release them back into the wild after the hunting season?

Statistically significant difference compared to "10 years earlier"

Data in %

# RELEASING OTHER WILD FALCONS AFTER HUNTING SEASON

Falconers in Europe almost never used wild falcons (87%). In Africa, four out of five (82%) released falcons after the season (one third (37%) released all and almost half (46%) released some), while one in eleven (9%) kept them. In Asia, almost half (45%) released all falcons, one quarter (25%) released some, and one in nine (11%) kept them after the season.



A12. If you take other wild falcons, other than saker falcons, do you release them back into the wild after the hunting season?

Data in %  
N=262

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

# TRAPPING FALCONS

## TRAPPING FALCONS



Saker falcon. © Tim Strater, CC BY-SA 2.0, modified

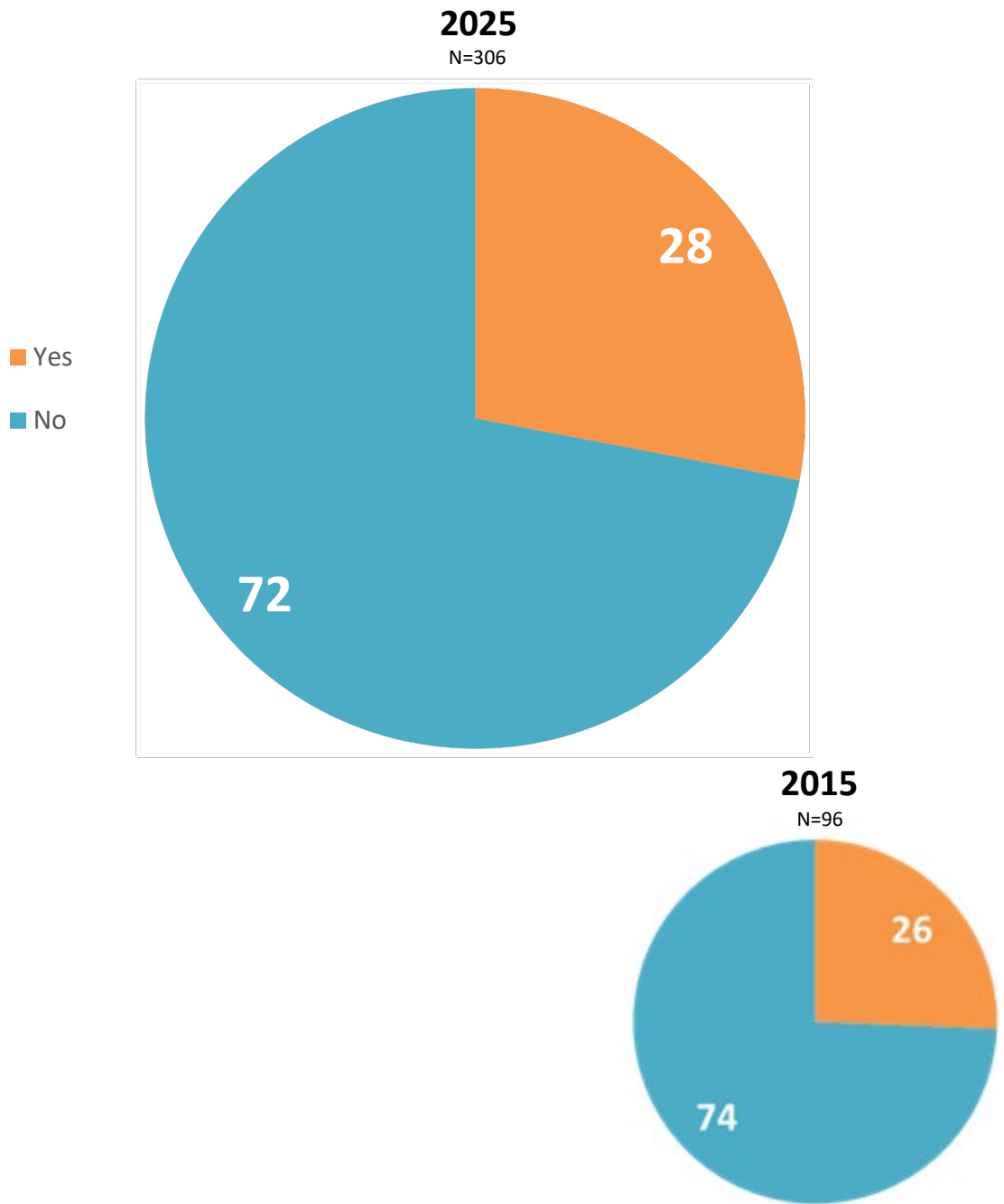
It appears that there were very few professional trappers in the survey, and trapping appeared less popular, likely due to growing interest in hybrids, captive-bred falcons, and other birds of prey species. A quarter of respondents (28%) identified themselves as trappers, though some falconers who trap for themselves did not perceive this as being a trapper. The percentage of trappers was similar ten years ago.

Regionally, two thirds of respondents in Africa (63%) were trappers, compared to almost one third in Asia (29%) and only one in twenty in Europe (5%). Trapping was more common in wintering areas (35%) than in the breeding range (19%), reflecting traditions of trapping migrating birds and the limited use of wild birds in most European countries.

Experience among trappers mirrored what emerged for falconry overall: one third (30%) had trapped for more than 20 years, and another third (37%) for 11-20 years. Most trappers caught small numbers of sakers for personal use rather than for sale. The use of small falcons as bait remained common in some countries, particularly in Africa, where two thirds of trappers (68%) reported doing so. In Asia, one fifth (21%) used small raptors as bait, while in Europe this method was not used (0%).

# ARE YOU A FALCON TRAPPER?

A quarter of respondents (28%) had also been trappers; some falconers who trapped falcons for themselves had not perceived it as being trappers.

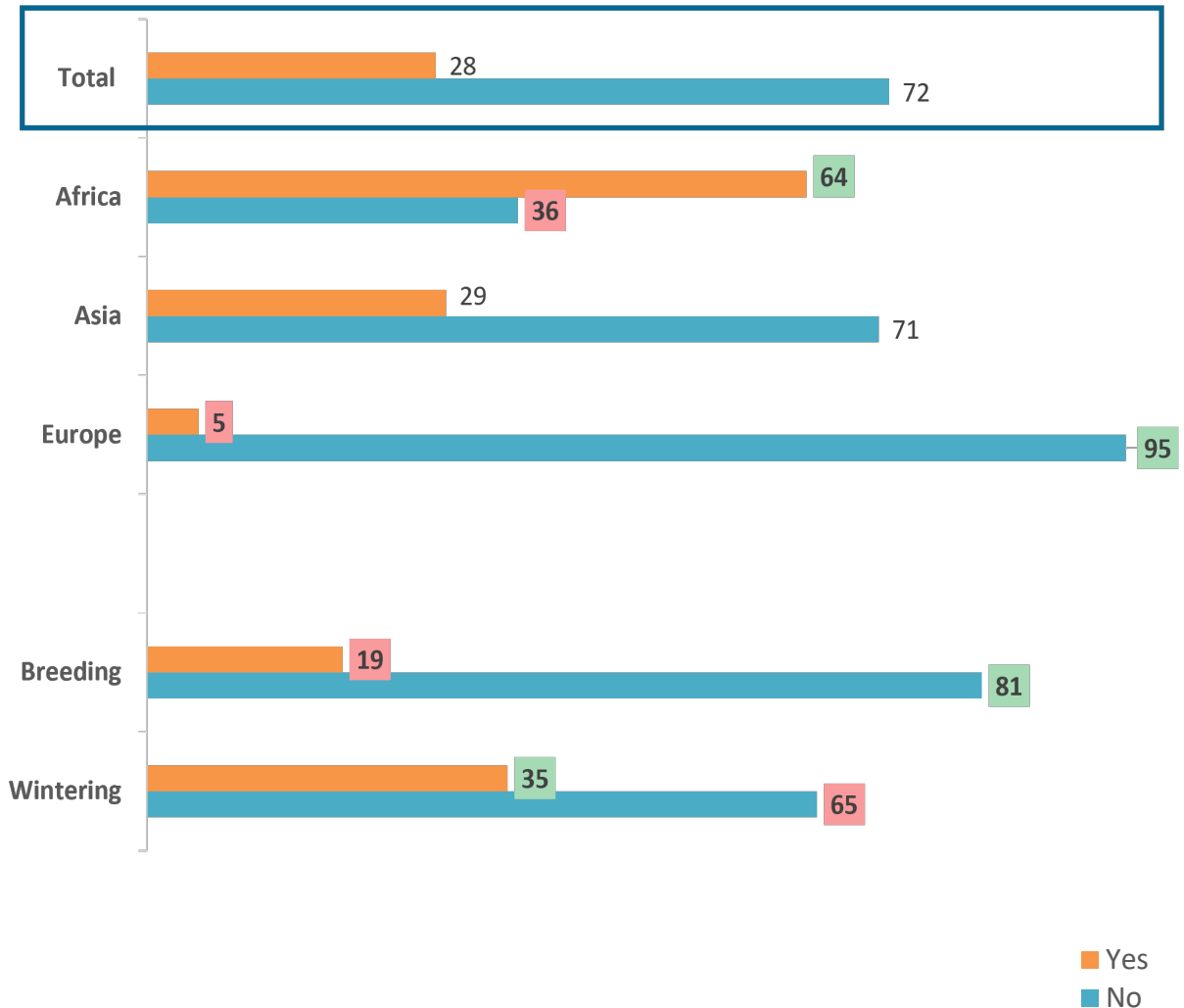


B1. Are you a falcon trapper?

Data in %

# ARE YOU A FALCON TRAPPER?

Two thirds of respondents in Africa (63%) declared themselves trappers; in Asia, almost one third (29%), and in Europe only one in twenty (5%). There had been more trappers in the wintering range – one third (35%) – while in the breeding range only one fifth (19%) called themselves trappers.



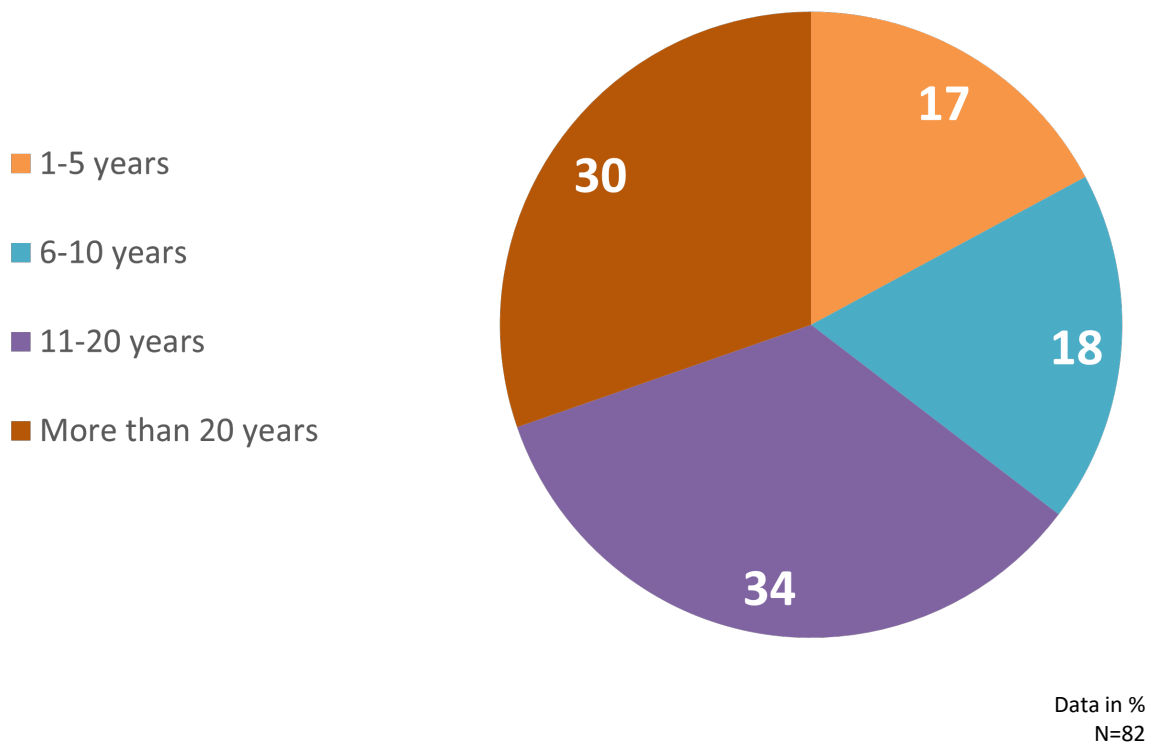
B1. Are you a falcon trapper?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=306

## FALCON TRAPPING – HOW LONG

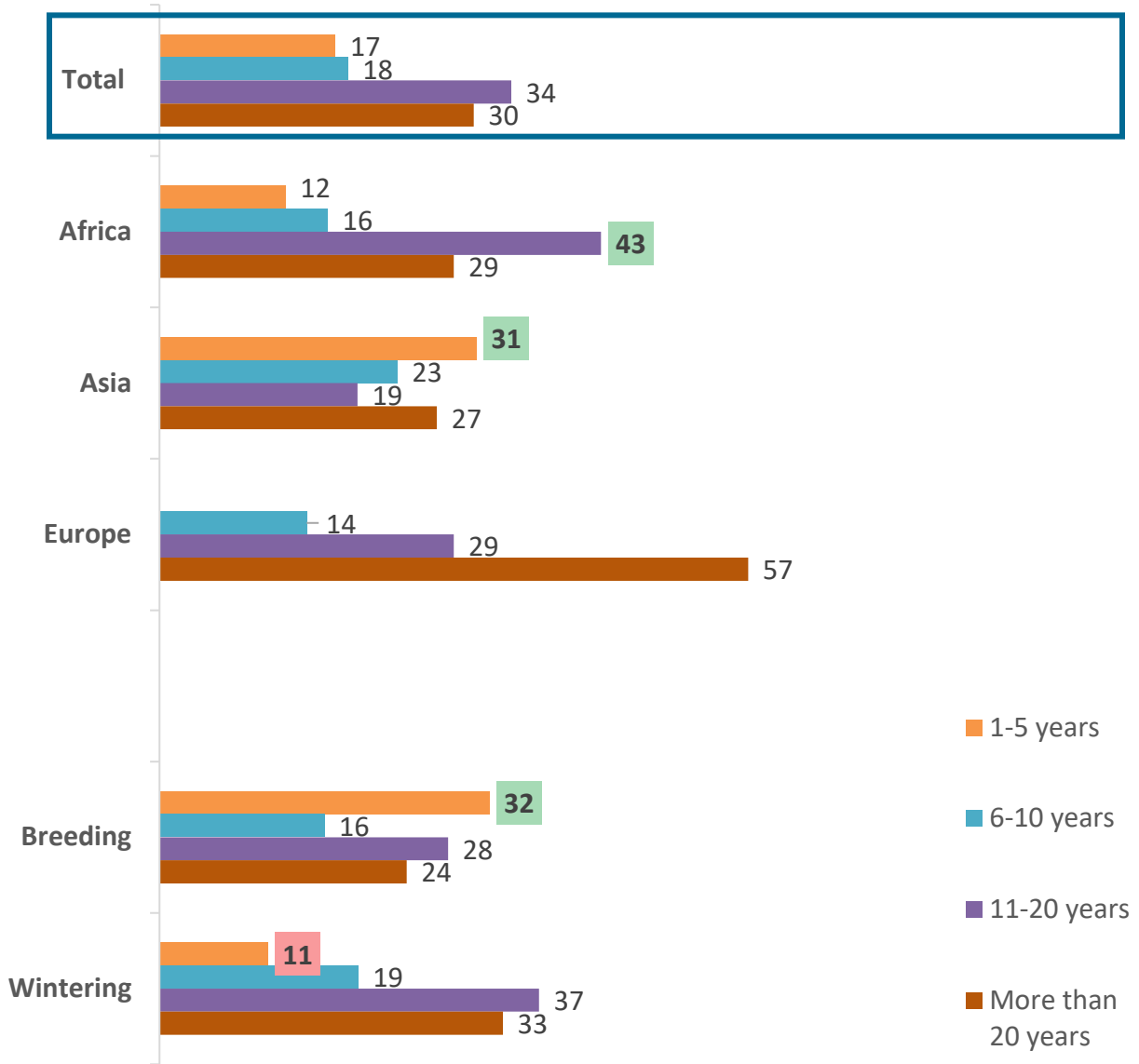
One third of trappers (30%) did it for more than 20 years, another one third (37%) for 11–20 years.



B2. How long have you been a falcon trapper?

# FALCON TRAPPING – HOW LONG

Trappers in Asia were the youngest – one third (31%) trapped only for up to five years. Two fifths of trappers in Africa did it for 11–20 years.



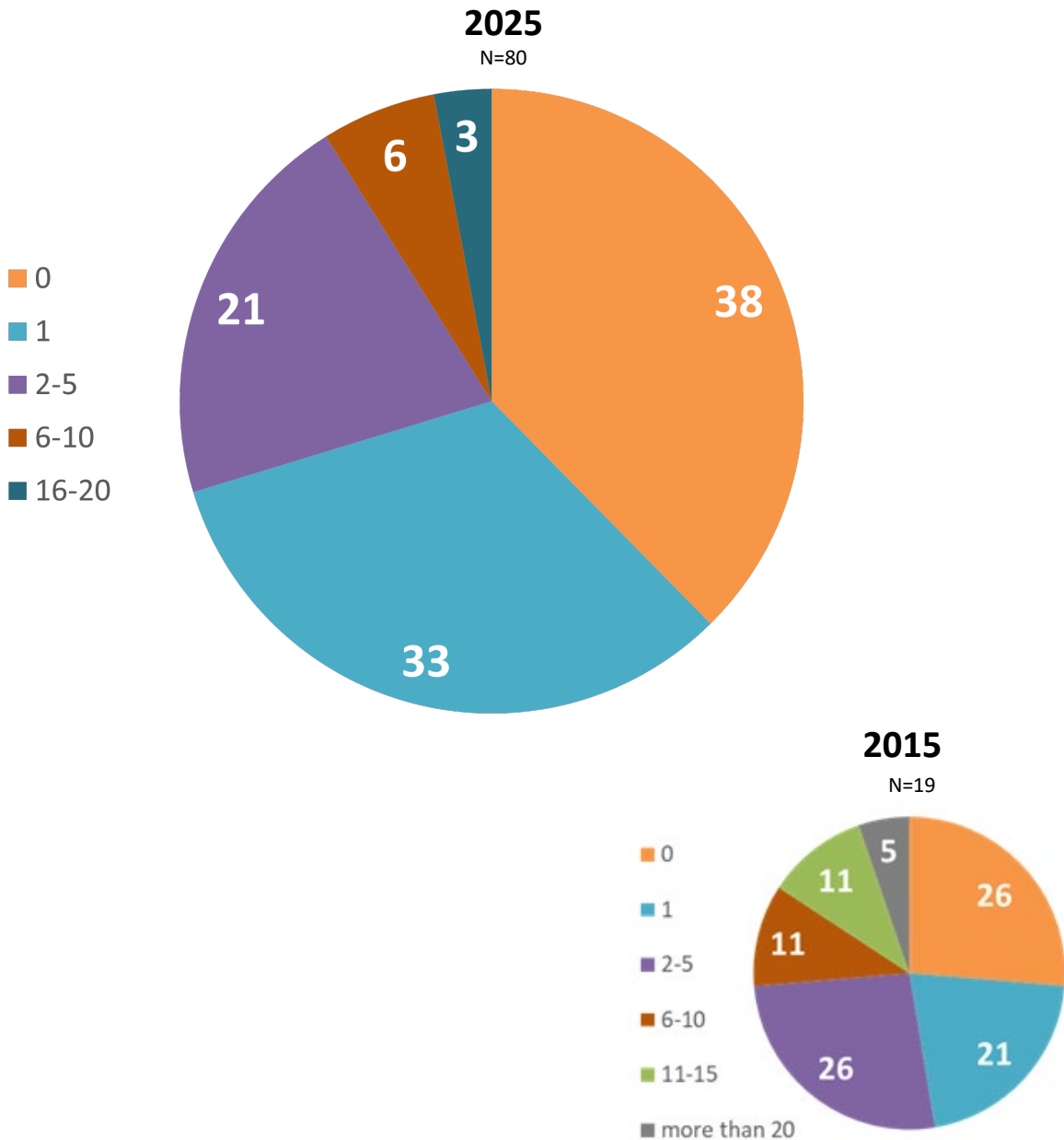
B2. How long have you been a falcon trapper?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=82

# TRAPPING SAKER FALCONS – LAST FIVE YEARS

One third of trappers (38%) did not trap any saker in last five years. One third of trappers had trapped one saker in last five years, one fifth (21%) 2–5 sakers, only one in eleven (9%) had trapped six or more.



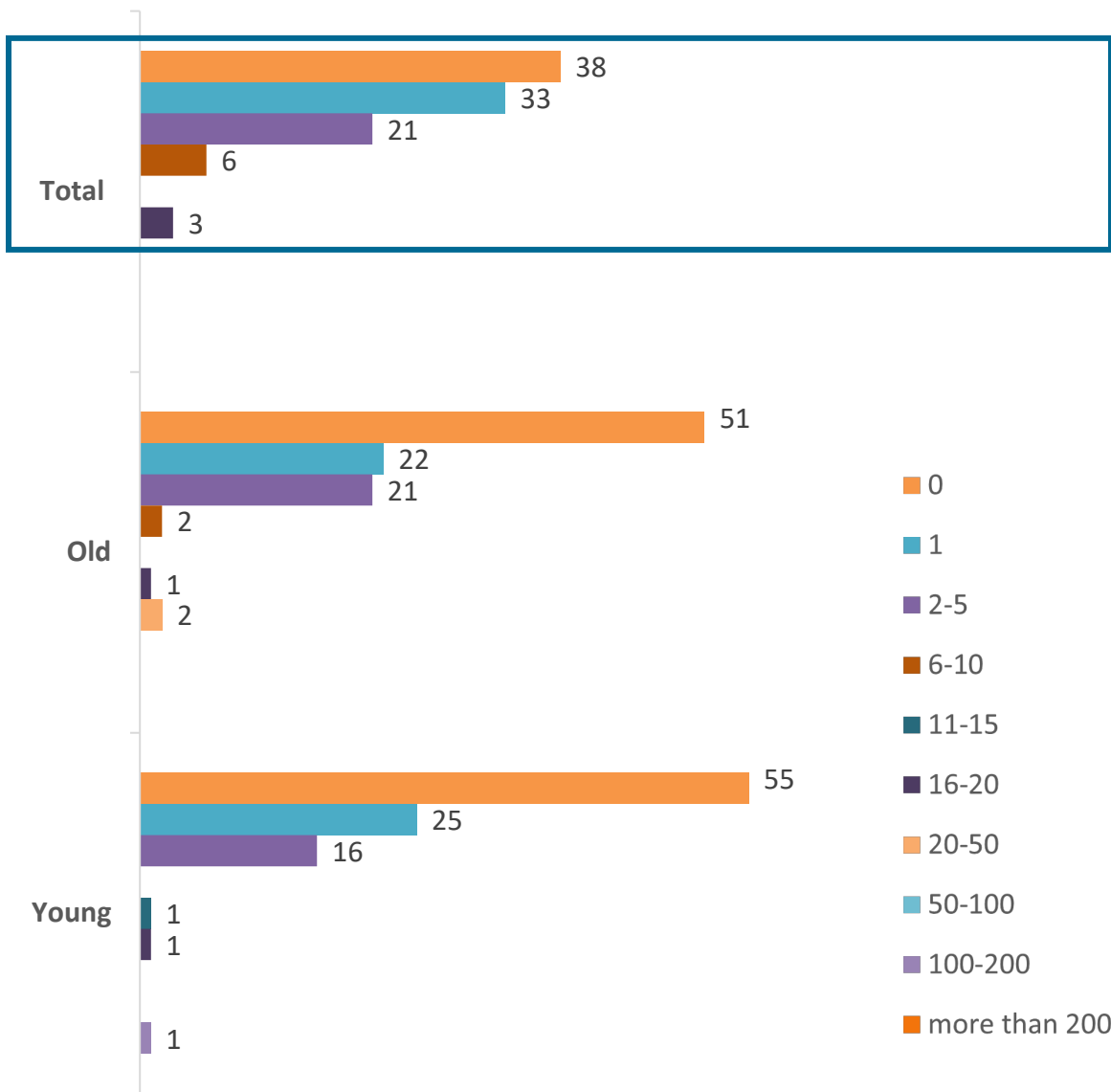
B4. How many saker falcons have you trapped in the last five years?

Data in %

# TRAPPING OLD AND YOUNG SAKER FALCONS LAST FIVE YEARS

One third of trappers had reported trapping one saker in the last five years; one fifth (21%) had reported two birds, while two in five (38%) had reported none.

Half of trappers (49%) had reported trapping adult sakers, and slightly fewer (45%) had reported trapping young sakers.



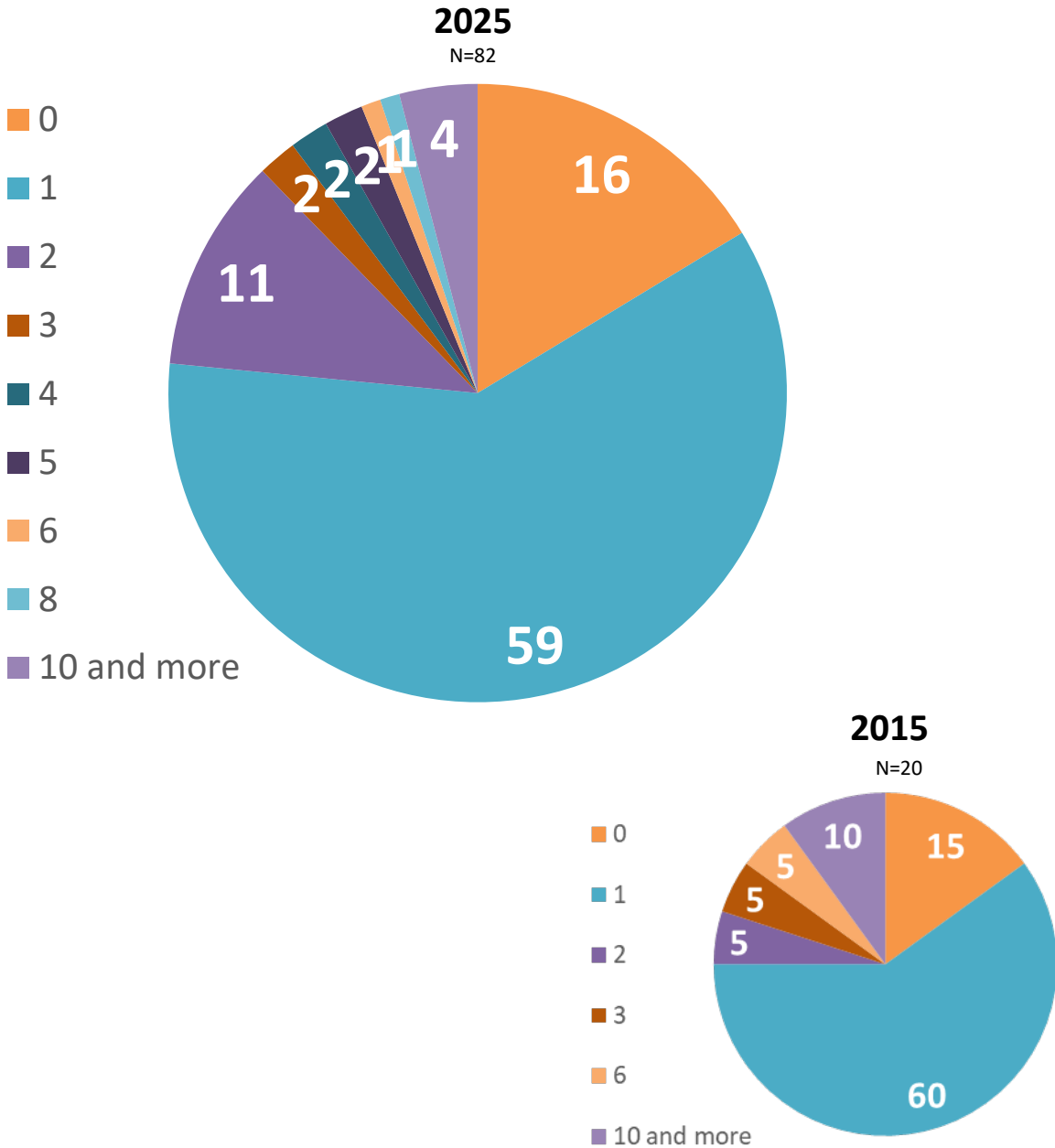
B4. How many Saker Falcons have you trapped in the last five years?  
B11. How many old? B11A. How many young?

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

Data in %  
N=82

# ONE TRAPPER – HOW MANY COUNTRIES

Almost two thirds of trappers (59%) trapped falcons in one country, one in nine (11%) trapped in two countries. One in eight (12%) trapped in three or more countries. One sixth (16%) declared that they were not currently trapping.

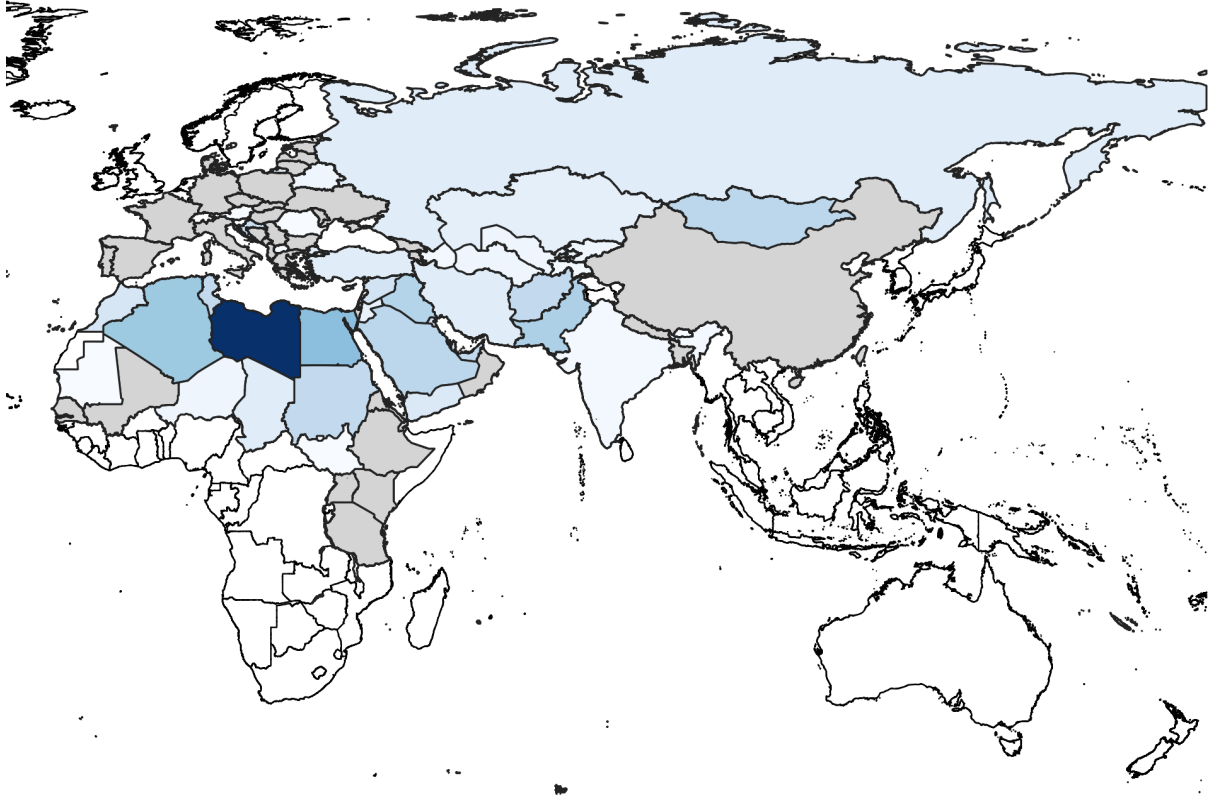


B12 In how many countries do you trap falcons?

Data in %

## FALCON TRAPPING – COUNTRIES

Trappers declared trapping falcons in 39 countries, in most of Asiatic and African range countries, only a few trapped in Europe.



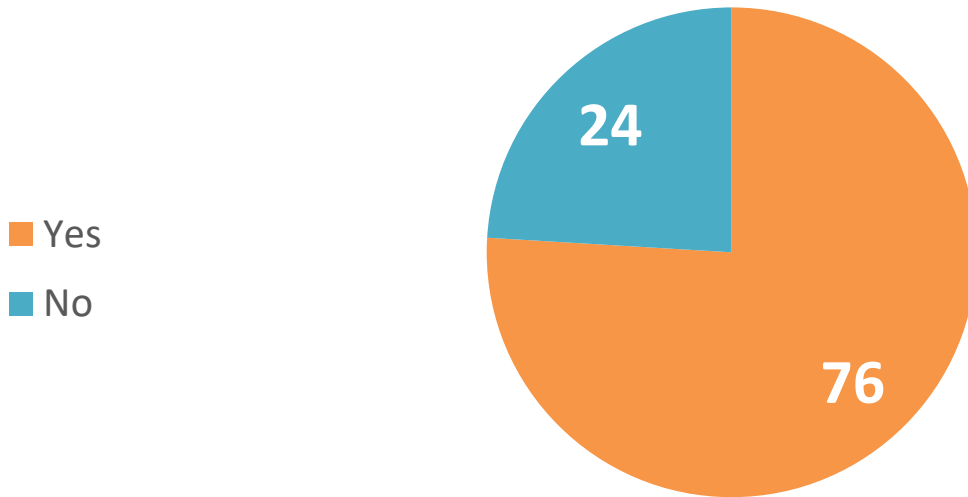
B12A. In which countries are you trapping?

N=78

Legend: The colour gradient represents the number of mentions, with lighter shades indicating fewer mentions and darker shades indicating higher numbers, from 1 to 42. Grey indicates zero mentions.

# TRAPPING FALCONS – OTHER SPECIES

A quarter (24%) of trappers had trapped falcons other than saker.

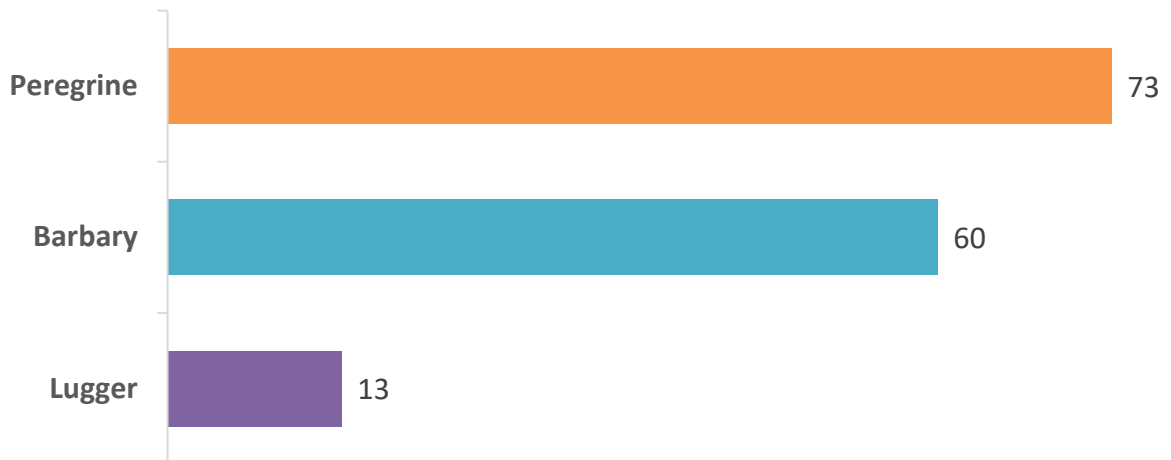


B13. Do you also trap other falcon species?

Data in %  
N=79

Other species trapped included peregrines by three quarters of trappers (73%) and Barbary falcons by almost two thirds (60%).

The least common was the lugger falcon: only one in eight (13%).



B14. Which species do you trap?

Data in %  
N=52

# USING SMALL FALCONS AS A BAIT FOR TRAPPING LARGE FALCONS

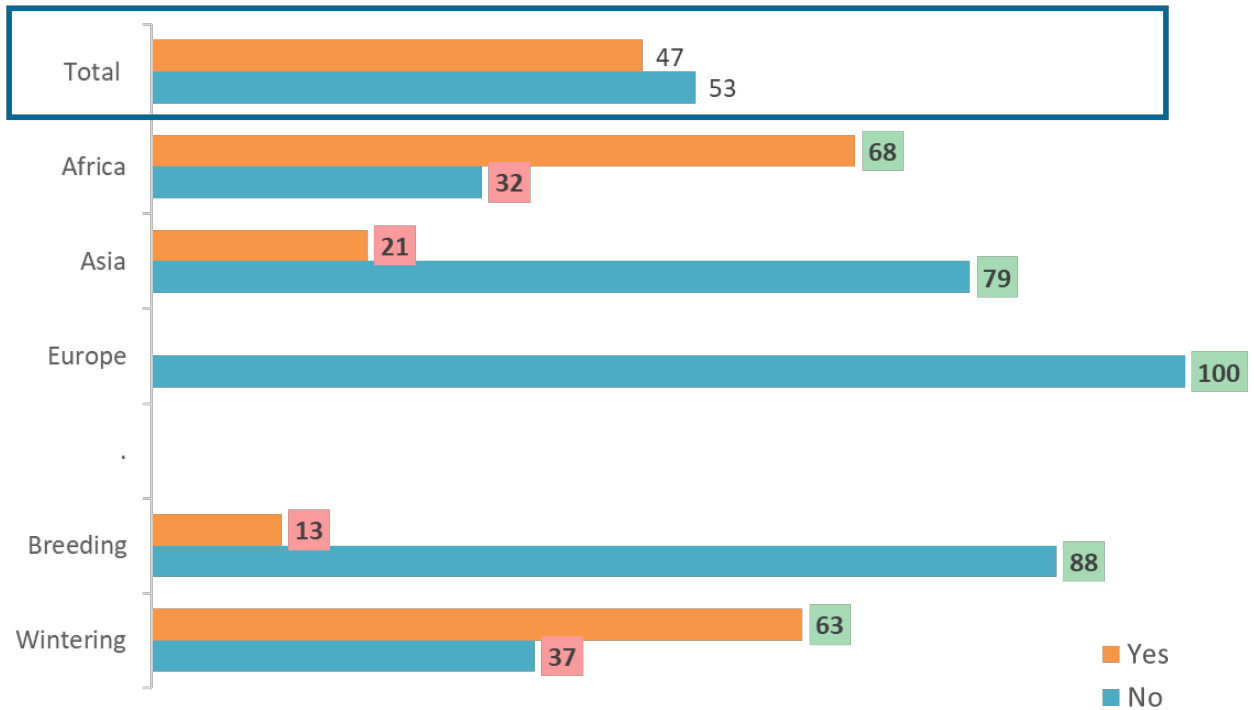
Almost half of trappers (47%) had used other small raptors / falcons as bait.



B15. Do you use small falcons (like lugger) as a bait (barak) for trapping large falcons?

Data in %  
N=78

Using of other raptors as bait was more popular in African countries: two thirds of the trappers declared doing so (68%). In Asia one fifth of the trappers (21%) had used small raptors as bait. This method was not used in Europe.



B15. Do you use small falcons (like lugger) as a bait (barak) for trapping large falcons?

Data in %  
N=78

Statistically significant difference. TOTAL (0,95)

# APPENDIX

## NO ANSWERS RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING SAKER FALCON RANGE COUNTRIES

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Oman
Armenia	Iraq	Palestine
Azerbaijan	Israel	Senegal
Bangladesh	Jordan	South Sudan
Bhutan	Latvia	Sudan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lebanon	Syria
Chad	Mali	Tajikistan
Cyprus	Mauritania	Tanzania
Djibouti	Moldova	Uganda
Eritrea	Nepal	
	Niger	



## The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

is an environmental treaty of the United Nations that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. This unique treaty brings governments and wildlife experts together to address the conservation needs of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species and their habitats around the world.

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