

## DIVULGATION

Divuligation programme visiting the tower and seeing directly the barn owl behaviour on PC or TV circuit (open to all public)



Divuligation programme at our school (primary and secondary) and Figuerola del Camp school.



## INSTALLING NEST BOXES IN NEAR AREAS



FEM UN POBLE VIU



AMB CAIXES NIU



PROGRAMA DE REINTRODUCCIÓ DE L'ÓLIBA A LA TORRE DE LA MIXARDA

**BARN OWL REINTRODUCTION  
AT MIXARDA TOWER  
SCHOOL COR DE MARIA (VALLS)**  
<http://www.cordemariavalls.cat/nius/mixarda.htm>



## LOCATION



Mixarda tower is located at Figuerola del Camp (Catalonia) at coordinates GPS E(X):353966, N(Y):4578076 UTM31N ETRS89



Source: <http://icc.cat>



Source: Anna Estallo  
<http://www.elpuntavui.cat>

## BACKGROUND

Reconstruction of Mixarda Tower (2010). There was a barn owl nest before its reconstruction. Reconstruction works took into account the fact that barn owls could come back and rebuild then its nests there.



Some Cor de Maria students (Damià Garcia Morón, Arnau Vicente Peris, Jesús Vidal Hernández, Marc Figuerola Moreno) made models to show the different improvements applied to the reconstruction works to allow barn owls come back Mixarda Tower (2010). It was an award-winning project at "Cartell de Premis de Recerca i creació Joves. Valls" (February 2011).

Damià Garcia Morón developed models and studied nocturnal birds of prey in Alt Camp areas (May 2011).

There had been barn owls at Mixarda Tower until 2010.

During 2011, 2012, 2013 until early 2014 we tracked if barn owls returned but they didn't.



## BARN OWL REINTRODUCTION VIABILITY ANALYSIS



In early January 2014 we spoke with the Body of Rural Agents about the possibility of barn owl reintroduction at Mixarda tower. This option was considered feasible.



Barn owls had lived historically in this area. An area where we find dry land crops without main roads within a radius of 1.5 km.

## TECHNIQUE CALLED HACKING



The technique called “hacking” consists in putting chicken barn owls into an old nest. We feed them until they are able to hunt by themselves. We bring some food to them every day and clean the leftovers.



## NEST PREPARATION

We improve and adapt the nest to carry out the “hacking” technique. Everything is supervised by Rural Agents.



Installing video camera and elements to facilitate the enter and exit of the nest.



## BARN OWL REINTRODUCTION

On the 5th June 2014 (World Environment Day) some barn chick owls with bands arrived.

- G28423: from Alcarràs. Founded by the local police
- G28424: from a cooperative in Torregrossa
- G28425: from a quarry in Lleida

The three chicken barn owls arrived at Vallcalent Recuperation Center (Lleida) on the 30th May.



Source: Alcarràs police



3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> students are in charge of bringing some food to feed the barn chick owls for a period of 30 days.



Controlling video capture. Watch videos at: <http://www.cordemariavalls.cat/nius/mixarda.htm>

