



INTERNATIONAL
BEARDED VULTURE MONITORING

22.12.2009

Dear mr. Max Muster!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Joyeux Noel et meilleurs voueux de Bonne et Heureuse Année!
Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein gutes Neues Jahr!
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!
Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!

Richard Zink

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



For the Christmas card
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Bearded Vultures on the Move

Maseta



Maseta, a female BV was
born in the Zoo of
Schönbrunn (AUT) on
28th of February 2009.



After its release in the **Hohe Tauern NP (AUT)** on 5th of June, the bird fledged on 1st of July 2009. Thanks to a satellite transmitter her

movements could be documented very well. The bird experienced the surroundings of the release site until mid of October. On 16th of October the BV was located at the **Austrian/Slovenian** border. Two days later Maseta crossed the **Adriatic Sea** from Trieste and passed Venice on the way to **Tuscany**. Since then Maseta stood in Tuscany (last location on 6th of December). This is the first proof of a BV so far in southern direction heading for the Italian Apennine. By the way the distance between one of Masetas latest sleeping sites and **Corse** (next BV population) is not more than 130km.

Get distribution maps of Maseta and **Eustachius** (the second BV released in Hohe Tauern NP 2009) [here](#).

More information about the two satellite tracked BV's released in the Mercantour NP (**Condamine & Vaulabelle**) can be found [here](#).

More information about the **satellite telemetry** of bearded vultures can be found [here](#).

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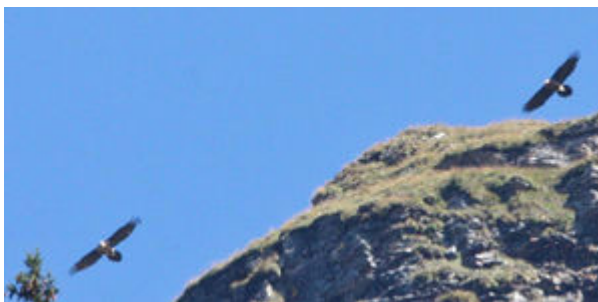
Formation of some Alpine Pairs

Austria - Mallnitz

Beside the well known couple in Gastein/Rauris a new pair formation was observed at the release site in Mallnitz lately. Right on the opposite side of the release place two birds started to rebuild an old nest of golden eagle. The younger male is **Pinzgarus** (Rauris 2008), the female is a bird born in the year 2005 (**Doraja? or Escalero?**). Remarkably the young male took the initiative and was more active building the nest.



Austria - Eastern Ankogel Massif



Since last year a couple has occupied the valley eastern of the Ankogel massif. One birds was still sub-adult in 2008. This year the couple looks completely mature and started with nest building again. Let's cross fingers that they succeed with incubation - it could be the first successful reproduction in Austria.

France - Massif de la Mortice



A second couple seems to form in the southern French Alps. Two adult birds have been observed several times since the beginning of September 2009. During the Alpine Observation Days the presence of 2 additional adults was verified. So far the

Mortice massif seems to be the centre of the territory. (F. BRETON)

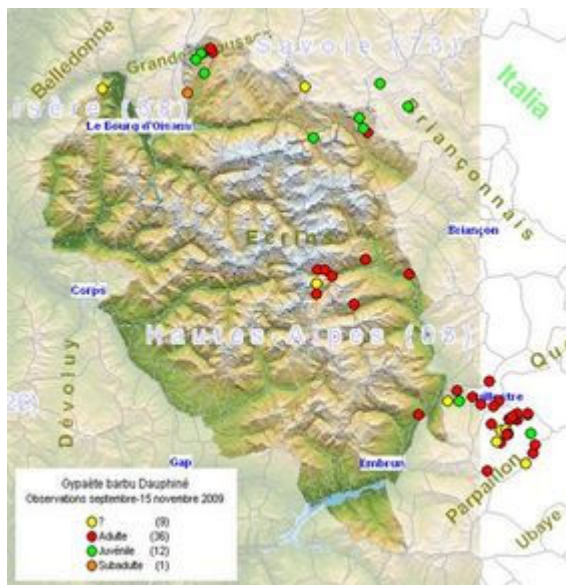
Italy - Valdigne

In the area of Valdigne pair formation and nest occupancy by Bearded vultures has been observed at least since the year 2004 (P.Fasce). After the disappearance of one adult birds (**Republic 13?**) it took some time until the territory was occupied again by a couple. More recently (since summer 2004?) a sub-adult female (probably born in 2004) and the male **Swaro** (born 2005) have formed a new pair. This autumn nest building and synchronous flights have been observed. Unfortunately the area is used quite frequently for heli-skiing. (C.Chioso & R. Rivelli)

Italy - Val Maira

In the southern Italian Alps the chances for a first reproduction have decreased again. Unfortunately except the couple of the Maira valley non of the previously observed pairs could be verified this autumn again. Let's cross fingers that reproduction will become true in this beautiful area very soon.

Other Interesting Sites



In the **Dauphiné (FR)** the number of observations increased again. C.Couloumy could differentiate 3 different sectors of BV presence:

- 1) Le plateau d'Emparis, in the north of the massif la Vallouise,
- 2) East of Le Val d'Escreins,
- 3) Between Écrins and Queyras.

The adult birds have been seen simultaneously but not together between Emparis and Escreins. The situation between Vallouise and Escreins still remains unclear. In the valley of Escreins an adult bird is rather territorial.

In the famous **Lech-valley (AUT)** three new birds could be verified recently. At least one is already sub-adult and thought to be stationary where Avarell used to stay years ago.

A white BV in the Italian Alps

An adult BV has settled south of Susa (TO) in the Chisone valley. It has been observed in three different sub-valley of the area. The extraordinary thing is that the bird remains uncoloured and looks completely white.

Its sleeping sites and its home range size will be evaluated with the help of the local monitoring coordinators now. (L.Giraud)



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News from Andalusia

Fatima, Mica (born in 2009) and **Pontones** (2007) use to move together in the high part of the Castril valley. **Tono** (2006) has been seen in the same area but also moved around between Cazorra and Segura ranges together with **Cata** (2009). Cata has been documented also in the area of La Cabrilla, in the cliffs on an historical BV nest. **Malena**

(2009) is mostly flying around the Guadalentin valley and Gualay stream area, a little bit southern than the rest of the birds (see [distribution map](#))

Regarding the individuals without transmitter, **Faust** (2006) was observed at the end of November in Poyos de la Mesa, and **Oliva** (2009) was seen and photographed last November around Banderillas peak. Both were apparently in good conditions. **Libertad** (2006) has not been seen since last May. In his this case as the bird has no transmitter, neither bleached feathers, its identification is a difficult task. There are some observations of individuals that we could not definitively identify and we are not sure if it was Tono, Faust or Libertad. (J.E. Gutierrez Urena)

New Press Release

23 years after its extinction the bearded vulture can be spotted again in the skies of Andalusia. The **Fundacion Gypaetus** works for the conservation of the species in Andalusia, and is responsible for the execution of the Andalusian Programme for Reintroduction of the Bearded Vulture. Read more about the present situation in Andalusia [here](#).

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Miscellaneous

Alpine Observation Days

Some of the monitoring protocols are still missing. Please send your data to the IBM as soon as possible. Analysing will be finished soon. A summary will be distributed and offered for download in the beginning of next year.

IKARUS had to be recaptured a second time!



After its re-release in the Stelvio NP in the summer of 2008 **Ikarus** spend the last months in central Switzerland. In November the bird was recaptured again. Read more about the [recapture](#) (German) and about [all the adventures of IKARUS](#).

Sadly **Ikarus** died - so far because of unknown reasons - in the end of December 2009.

BV in Germany

According to U. Brendl an unmarked young BV was seen several times in Alpine area of Berchtesgaden NP (Bavaria) in late July.

Last signals from BV Blick

What was already forewarned in June has now occurred: the capacity of the transmitter's battery has become so weak that the data transfer from 7th July will probably remain the last of the signals received from Blick. (D.Hegglin)

The risks of "green energy" for our birds (and bats)

Open [video](#) or look at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9srPoOU6_Z4&feature=autofb

Movement of Black vulture "Carreu"

A black vulture released in Cataluna, was visiting France and visited almost the entire Pyrenean chain until it came back to the Guara mountain in Aragon.



Decrease of Griffon vultures in Spain

The results of the 2009 census in the biggest Griffon vulture colony of Spain (Montejo) shows a continuous decline since 2004, with a decrease of 42 % (!) within 5 years. The 2009 result is the lowest within the last 15 years of censuses. The decrease is twice as rapid than the increase was in the period 1994-2004. This is a matter of concern for the species. (M. Terrasse & J. Prieto)

Award for Jesus Garzon

Recently **King Juan Carlos of Spain** has paid homage to our friend **Jesus Garzon**.

Jesus has been working life long for the conservation of nature (e.g. projects to re-establish trans-humans) and especially for the protection of vultures in Europe.

He is a unique board member of essential value for the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF). See more about his work [here](#) (Spanish).

Dear Suso,

I am proud to work with you for the protection of endangered birds in Europe. I wish you all the best for the future.

Richard



Pan-Alpine habitat model for the Bearded vulture

Recently **R. Arlettaz** proposed to extend the **habitat suitability models** done so far for Austria and Switzerland to cover also the rest of the Alps. This is because a major question remains open regarding the reason of the spatial heterogeneity in the success of the reintroduction. Core breeding populations have constituted in some parts of the Alps, whereas reintroductions have "failed" in other parts until now. According to previous studies (Hirzel et al., Zink) there is good evidence that some ecological constraints may (at least to a high extent) explain the observed pattern.

Only the IBM BV data can serve to carry out the modelling on a serious basis. It should be thoroughly thought about this important contribution to science. However, before the study can be started a **clear consensus of all IBM members will be necessary**.

New Documentary: Bearded Vultures and Men

Mathieu Le Lay a filmmaker and camera operator has started with a new documentary about the Alpine reintroduction process. "Through the rhythm of nature and the life of bearded vultures, the documentary will monitor a few key actors who struggle every single day to give back to nature a key element that other men had deliberately taken away" he says. See more [here](#).

200 Bearded Vultures Spotted Near India-China Border



"According to forest officials, bearded vultures were spared India's massive Diclofenac poisoning that killed over 97% of the country's vultures because they inhabit higher elevations in regions where cattle have not been given the anti-inflammatory drug" Rhishja Larson says.

Read more about [here](#).

Bearded Vultures in Ethiopia

Have a look at the extraordinary video about the Ethiopian Bearded Vultures showing the typical bone breaking behaviour [here](#).

BV in Parco Nazionale delle Dolomiti Bellunesi



On the 17th of June an unmarked (probably wild born) young BV was observed in the region Veneto, Provincia Belluno (IT). (F.Genero)

Cooperation between EAZA and the VCF

Read more [here](#).

New life for Croatian Griffon vultures

Rescued and nurtured for nearly a year, then fitted with a satellite transmitter, Letricia appeared reluctant at first to leave its island sanctuary and embark on its long and uncertain migration. Read more [here](#).

First two breeding couples of reintroduced Andean condor on the Atlantic Coast



Within the Atlantic Andean Condor Program 21 birds (11,10) have been released. The age of the birds is between 1 and 9 years. The birds come from different origin. After studying the satellite flights 2 condor couples have been found. The birds PEUMA & MALEN and WICHI & PAILIMIN are incubating in two caves they found in the zone of the Tembrao (~ 50

km from Pailemán). (L. Jacome)

Read more about the story of success [here](#).

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New Literature

Global Re-introduction perspectives

Global Re-introduction perspectives (Re-introduction case-studies from around the globe) Prepared by the IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group in conjunction with the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, UAE and the Denver Zoological Foundation, USA was published in October 2008 on 284 pages and is available for download [here](#). There is also a chapter about the Alpine Bearded Vulture Reintroduction.

Presentations of the Annual Meeting in Bormio

Please find the presentations given at the Annual Information Meeting in Bormio (ITA) [here](#).



Infogipeto December 2009

Please download the Italian news [here](#).

Austrian Monitoring News

Please download the Austrian newsletter [here](#) (German).

Toxics in eggs of scavengers

Recently a new paper was published under the title: "Fatal embryo chondral damage associated with fluoroquinolones in eggs of threatened avian scavengers". Read more [here](#).

New Italian National Action Plan for the Egyptian vulture

You may download the document in Italian language [here](#).



Diet of Griffon vultures in Serbia



A recent publication of B. Grubac in Serbian language with English summary has been published in Conservation of Nature, Belgrade.

Download the paper [here](#).

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