



INTERNATIONAL BEARDED VULTURE MONITORING

28.07.2009

Dear mr. Max Muster!

I am happy to send you the latest IBM-News. I hope you enjoy reading them.
kind regards

Richard Zink

International Bearded Vulture Monitoring (IBM)
Hohe Tauern National Park / EGS

Content:

Release Season 2009

Successful Nesting Season

Mortality Cases

Miscellaneous

Release Season 2009

France - Alpes-de-Haute-Provence - Mercantour

30.6.2009, Monique Perfus:

"After 24 days spent in the cave **Vaulabella** accomplished its first flight in the age of 125 days on 29th of June at 9:30AM. Meanwhile **Condamine** used to make many short flight exercises, thus learning the basics of flight".

First flight Condamine:
25.06.09

First flight Vaulabella:
29.6.09

8th August 2009:

"Twelve days after the first flight of Condamine and 7 days after Vaulabelle left the nest the birds gradually could improve their flight style. Our two Bearded Vultures behalf inseparable, they sleep, fly and eat next to each other. Meanwhile they chose sleeping sites of good quality which should be an indication for their successful evolution in nature. Now we expect them to increasingly experience the valleys in the neighbourhood. The follow-up will be more and more complex than... a signal for birds well adapted to their new environment".

First flights of Condamine (click open then view with [Google Earth!](#))

Released of Vaulabella in the Mercantour (french)





Austria - Hohe Tauern NP - Mallnitz

Michael Knollseisen, Hohe Tauern Nationalpark: "BV 585 **Maseta**, born in the Zoo of Schönbrunn, has fledged on first of July. After the first flight the bird returned into the release cave. It was not before 12th of July that the female slept outside the cave. On 13th of July **Eustachius**, born in the Centro de cria Guadalentin, Andalusia, fledged as well. Since then, both vultures could be observed in the Seebach valley.



Both birds have been equipped with satellite transmitter. The picture shows the first movement pattern of Eustachius around the release site until 24th of July".

[Table of content](#)

Successful Nesting Season

Summary 2009

Successful				
no.	Couple	Studbook	Name	Fledged
1	Albula	W66	missing	yes
2	Aravis	W68	missing	no
3	Bargy	W64	Biolan	yes
4	Braulio	W69	missing	yes

In total 17 couples were registered in late autumn 2008.

During the winter at least 13 couples started with incubation,

3	Livigno		unknown
4	Termignon		unknown

11 had hatching success.

successful.

Finally 9 couples remained

7 chicks fledged already!

Nest of Pair Aravis 2009



[Table of content](#)

Mortality Cases

Death of Natura Mate

Jean-Pierre Matinot, Responsable unité faune-eau-forêt, Parc national de la Vanoise:

FRANCAIS

"Une triste nouvelle pour les gypaètes qui séjournent en Vanoise. Ce 23 juillet en matinée, notre collègue, Mathieu BEURIER, garde-moniteur à Modane a découvert dans une vire en sommet de falaise, à proximité des cascades du Saint-Bernard d'un gypaète adulte (photo Michaël DELORME). Ses bagues, dont celle rose de la patte droite, indiquent avec BG 380 qu'il s'agit de Natura Mate, né le 13 mars 2001 et lâché en Haute-Savoie le 15 juin 2001.



Il n'y a pas d'indice externe sur les causes de la mort de ce gypaète relativement récente...

Ce fait est d'autant plus regrettable qu'il pourrait s'agir de l'oiseau adulte fortement coloré observé en couple avec un sub-adulte durant une bonne partie de l'hiver 2008-2009 sur le même secteur de Modane avec de nombreuses interactions agonistiques avec l'aigle royal!"

ENGLISH

"There is very sad news about the vultures in Vanoise. On the 23rd of July M. Beurier, ranger in Modane, has found the carcass of an adult Bearded vulture close to Saint-Bernard (picture). The ring color and its number made sure that it was BV380 **Naura Mate**, born in 2001 and released in Haute-Savoie the same year. There is no clear evidence for the reason of mortality even though the death has occurred rather recent. The death is a severe loss since the bird was part of a pair formation (adult & subadult)

for quite a time in the same sector of Modane in the winter 2008-09. Numerous interactions with the resident Golden Eagles have been observed".

Death of Blangiar

Luca Giraud, chief scientist in the parc:

"With deep sorrow we must tell you that **Blangiar**, released in Alpi Marittime (2004), was found dead in Gesso Valley. On 8th of July a tourist informed us and us one of its rings. After that we recover the carcass and the second ring. The circumstance of the recovery made us think that the death was due to a big avalanche. But we don't know if the bird was killed directly while feeding on the carrion of a chamois, or whether it was taken by the "breath" of the avalanche.

Reconstruction of the accident: The last observation of Blangiar was made in Entracque on 22nd of January 2009 when it was observed together Paolo Peila. After that we registered the biggest avalanches since years. Since then, we found two dead Golden Eagles which died under similar circumstances.

Recently Blangiar was very devoted to the area. We observed it regularly since its second year of life. It was in pair formation with BV388 **Paolo Peila** in the Gesso Valley. In December we observed them copulating and charging a nest... it would have been the first nest occupied in Alpi Marittime since seventy years or more! The loss of Blangiar reduced the chance for reproduction in the region again. Even though we consider the reason of death to be natural, we keep working to exclude any other cause of death checking lead levels and other toxics, looking for the remains of shooting etc. In this context we want to express our thanks for advice by VCF (former FCBV) and our colleagues of Parc National du Mercantour."



Last sure identification (picture) on 19th of October 2008 by Autran Gérard

[Table of content](#)

Miscellaneous

Preparations for the Alpine Observation Day 2009

The **Bearded Vulture Observation Days 2008** have been a huge success. Therefore we would like to repeat this monitoring & press event for the 4th time.

Recently we have been informed about a similar ongoing around the globe: see **International Vulture Awareness Day**. For sure this initiative is valuable and should be supported.

However, the **Bearded Vulture Observation Days 2009** aim to count a maximum of Bearded Vultures and the method thus is much more specific. Our needs strongly depend on the seasonal behaviour of the birds (peak of courtship) and stable weather conditions all over the Alps. Therefore October has turned out to be the best time our basic criteria.

Since we will have our **Annual Information Meeting** on 23rd-25th of October in Stelvio, we suggest to focus the observation days on **10/11** or **17/18** of October. Personally I prefer 10th-11th of October. Thus we could delay the count for one week in case of very bad weather conditions at short notice.

To fix the date until end of August may I kindly ask you to select your preferable date [here](#).

Re-release of Ikarus

Hanspeter Gunsch,

PR – Stelvio NP:

"In December 2009

Ikarus was found exhausted in **Val di Rabbi**. Blood analyses of the male vulture revealed severe lead intoxication. Obviously



the bird was feeding on  carcass with lead

fragments due to hunting ammunition. Even low lead levels may result in apathetic behaviour, neuronal dysfunction or reduced fertility to name just a few. Severe lead intoxication is usually lethal.

The Stelvio National Park makes an **effort to reduce lead ammunition** now.

Thanks to Hans Frey and his team the bird could be rehabilitated. In spring 2009 the bird was ready to be re-released. A wonderful option to release a flight experienced bird.

The release took place at the Furkelhütte in Trafoi (Southern Tyrol) on 20th of June. In cooperation with SWILD the bird could be fitted with a satellite transmitter. Accompanied by a group of about 100 Bearded Vulture fans the bird spread its wings and flew off. Daniel Hegglin received the first locations a few hours after the release. The next day Ikarus visited the breeding territory of Valle del Braulio and was observed feeding there".

Recent French Press



Links provided by **Alvaro Camina**, member of VCF:

[first link](#)

[second link](#)

Swiss Newsticker

Please note: our Swiss colleagues will offer a "newsticker" beside the common news they distribute ever 2-3 months in the future.

You can find the [Swiss-Newsticker](#) here.

Nonno Bob in Switzerland



Nonno bob used to stay in the area of Piemont lately (last observation on 9th of March 2009). 17th of June D.Roten made some pictures of Nonno Bob in upper Valais (CH). Even the radio transmitter - which is no more working - is visible on the picture. Please enter this important observation into the IBM data base.

New Literature

Modeling the impact of feeding stations on vulture scavenging service efficiency
C. Deygouta, A. Gaultc, F. Sarrazinc and C. Bessa-Gomesa

Abstract

Vultures, the only vertebrate obligate scavengers, are currently facing a dramatic worldwide decline with over half of vulture species now classified as threatened. To address this widespread decline, the use of feeding stations has been widely advocated in recovery programs. However, providing food that is more predictable in time and space than natural resources could disrupt the ecological scavenging service provided by vultures. In this study, we build a multi-agent system (MAS), which describes the social foraging behavior of Gyps vultures in order to investigate how resource predictability in space and resource management affect scavenging service efficiency. We study the possibility that vultures take into account feeding station location in addition of using

local enhancement. Our results show that the efficiency of the scavenging service is heavily affected by the way resources are distributed between feeding stations and natural areas. Nevertheless, it appears possible to minimize a loss in service efficiency by increasing the number of feeding stations while keeping the total amount of resources available constant, thus reducing the predictability of the resources located on the stations. We illustrate our work in the case of European feeding stations that provide supplementary resources in areas where natural ones are scarce. Moreover, we discuss the implications worldwide, in particular in the case of India, where feeding stations for vultures are intended to lure individuals away from potentially harmful natural carrion.

published in Ecological Modelling, Volume 220, Issue 15

[Table of content](#)

If you want to cancel this newsletter, please click [here](#).
