



## INTERNATIONAL BEARDED VULTURE MONITORING

19.03.2010

**Dear mr. Max Muster!**

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**Our Network is a Unique Collaboration Between:**

### **Reproduction 2009/2010 - Preliminary Results**

#### **Austria**

Two adult couples have been monitored. In both cases nest building and copulations have been observed. In one case a clutch and hatching could be verified. The second pair did not start with incubation until end of February. A new control is planed soon.

#### **France**

Up until now 8 territories have been monitored. In 8 cases clutching could be verified. In one case the pair failed soon after clutching. The first French chicks have already hatched.

#### **Italy**

Four couples have been monitored intensively since autumn. Additionally a fifth couple was reported to breed in Valle d'Aosta close to the Gran Paradiso National Park. Unfortunately no information has been communicated within the IBM network about this pair. Therefore the probable number of couples is given in brackets. Four clutches have been reported.

#### **Switzerland**

Presently data of four couples can be found in the central IBM data base. In 3 cases clutches have been verified. In one case a hatching has been reported.

#### **Summary**

- Up until now a total of **18** (19?) mature couples has been monitored.
- In **15** (16?) cases the clutch could be verified.
- **5** pairs have started to feed a chick.
- The proportion of brooding pairs is



**83%.**

photo: M.Knollseisen

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### **The couple of Termignon**

#### **Good news from Vanoise National Park**

**Jean-Pierre Martinot**, scientific chief in the park, informed about another successful incubation period in Termignon. With much effort his rangers monitor the couple since years.

Termignon is one of the most intensively monitored pairs in the Alps. Even the day time of fledging has been regularly recorded in the past.

2002 - 11:10

2004 - 06:10

2005 - 13:25

2006 - 08:22

At that point: Compliments to you **Jean-Francois Dalix** and many thanks for the excellent monitoring. After your retirement we wish you all the best for the future.

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### **Genetics**

In 2009, 34 feather samples were collected in the field and sent to Ecogenics, all of which were subject to DNA extraction. Twenty-eight samples were further analysed with 14 microsatellite DNA markers.

Fifteen of the 17 genotypes detected in the feather samples could be found in the database. The following birds could be re- identified:

BG348 (Sereno)  
 BG370 (Roure)  
 BG299 (Gildo)  
 BG364 (Louis)  
 BG357 (Rätia)  
 BG463 (Folio)  
 BG395 (Martell)  
 BG392 (Ambo)  
 BG375 (Felice)  
 BG433 (Blangiar)



Two new genotypes could be found. GT037 is the genotype of „Susanna“, the juvenile 2009 of the Aravis pair. The results of the second unknown genotype GT038 suggest that it is offspring of a female offspring of the pair in Livigno and of the male BG422 (Kasati). Since this combination of birds is not among the known pairs **the genetic results proof that there must be unknown couples in the Alps!**

The complete report can be downloaded [here](#).

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### **Maseta - the story goes on...**



In mid October **Maseta** left the Alps. According to a flight over the Adriatic

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See it is a strong bird from **Hohe Tauern National Park**. With help of a satellite transmitter it was possible to closely trace her fights. Soon after, the female reached Tuscany. Since then it stood in the region of Alpi Apulane. Unfortunately sometimes the transmitter shocked us since it had sent "mortality signals". However more recently Masetta was seen again (see picture). She is doing very well. We will see if the bird will return into the Alps in summer 2010...

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## **Death of IKARUS**

### **A Sad End**

Ikarus was released 2008 in the Stelvio National Park. After a first recapture because of lead poisoning the bird could be re-released on 20th of June 2009. After that Ikarus shifted its home range to central Switzerland where it was found exhausted another time on 10th of November 2009. However lead levels were moderate this time. Finally Ikarus died because of liver failure on 19th of December. Read more in the [press release](#) of the Swiss Foundation.

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## **Phenix...**

### **...the first bearded vulture born in the Alps 1997**

In January Lutz Lückert send a link to his documentation about the first flight of Phenix in 1997. Please find the videos in two parts:

[part 1](#)

[part 2](#)

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## **Interaction**

It happened on 26th of January between 11:28 and 11:39 AM.

**Christian Couloumy** had carried his photo equipment for quite a while.

All of a sudden he saw two birds coming closer with incredible speed.





In that moment all his doubt whether or not to carry the heavy photo equipment with him had vanished.

He was able to make some remarkable pictures of an aerial flight display between bearded vulture and golden eagle.



Enjoy some of his unforgettable pictures...

Guess who the winner was?

Right it has been the bearded vulture!

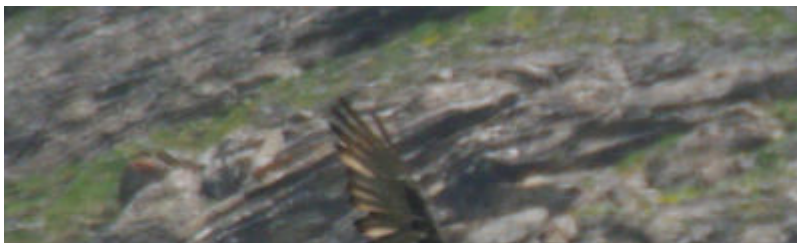


Unfortunately no rings could be seen!

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## **Bird Identification !?**

### **The White**



On 25th of June 2009 a white bird was observed in Queyras (F). It is likely that it is the same bird that was seen in Val Chisone during the Annual

Observation Days 2009.

### **GYPA 2 (St Paul sur Ubaye)**



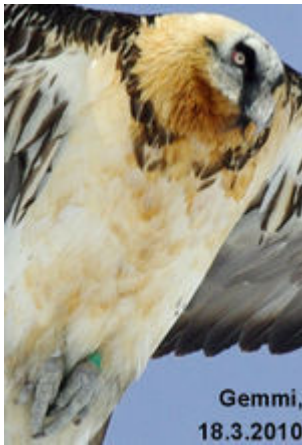
In the beginning of February the ring of an adult bird was documented in the southern French Alps. The ring seems to be grey or silver. However, considering these colours the identity of the bird still can not be clarified. There are several options:

Likely: FIRMIN (m)

Probable: AISONE (m), VERNANTE (m)

Possible: BALTHAZAR (male of Bargy), ALEXA (f), MELCHIOR (m), ULLI (territorial male in Austria for several years), PARADATSCH (territorial female in Austria for several years), REPUBLIC 11 (territorial female of Aravis), CRYSTAL (f), DANIEL (m), JACKPOT3 (m), GILDO (territorial female in Valais), DIANA VALAIS (male at the Gemmi, CH)

### **Diana Valais**



Diana Valais, a male bird Switzerland 12 years ago, has been re-identified on 18th of March at the Gemmi Pass in Switzerland.

The last observation of Diana-Valais was in the year 2001 in Haute-Savoie.

The picture shows undoubtedly the colour of both rings (green and silver). We want to thank the photographer D.Roten for his help to identify Diana-Valais.

According to Mr. Roten up to 3 adults among a total of 5 birds stay the area of the Gemmi Pass.

Gemmi,  
18.3.2010

### **Dark Head**



On 25th and 26th of February an unmarked bearded vulture has been seen in Haute Ubaye and Valouise.

The bird is expected to be born in the wild in 2007 or 2008.

Its worn plumage could help to identify the bird.

Telmon J-Phi  
Le 25/02/2010 Vallouise

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**Wind Power & Birds**

**Resolution - Wind Farms**

After the Annual Information Meeting held in Bormio (23rd–25th October 2009), a **resolution on the threat of wind farms to Bearded Vultures** has been worked out. The resolution is hosted on the site of Stelvio National Park for [download](#). Find another kind of article on the effects of **wind energy** [here](#).

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### Bearded Vulture Tono on the "road" again

On the 5th of February the **Fundacion Gypaetus** wrote:



"Tono, a Bearded Vulture released in Andalusia 2006, has started a new long distance travel for the fourth consecutive year. On the 1st of February he started flying to the north again. During the 2nd and 3rd of February he has continue travelling to the north and he spent the last night in the province of Zaragoza. Taking into account what happened in the previous years, it is probably that today Tono will arrive to the Pyrenees. In the previous years the trip lasted between 3 and 5 days, and each time it is starting earlier. In 2007 Tono travelled at the end of May, in 2008 at the end of April while in 2008 he started the trip on the 10th of March."

Indeed Tono arrived in the Pyrenees soon after. Mean while he went back to the south (p.c. C.Ruiz). Who wants to guess what will happen next year? For sure the bird will be almost adult then!

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### Miscellaneous

#### Punishment for setting poisoned baits

A huge judicial success in the anti-poisoning campaign has been reported from southern Spain. Read more at the site of [Fundacion Gypaetus](#) or [here](#)!



#### Black vultures in the Massif of Ecrins and surroundings

A new **[Report on the black vulture](#)** edited by Christian Couloumy has been published recently.

The story of one of them can be read [here](#).

#### Vulture Action Plan for Nepal

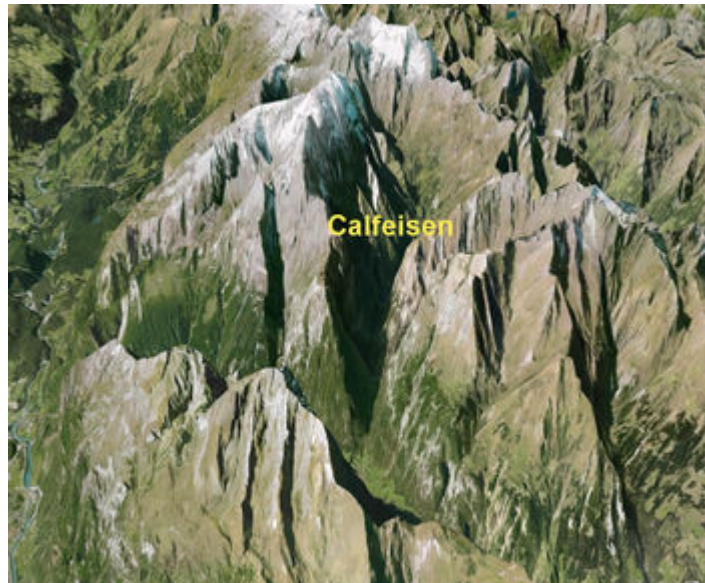
In February Mr. Anand Chaudhary was so kind to send a link to the new **[Action Plan for Nepal](#)**. He is Conservation Officer and responsible for the Vulture Conservation Program of the Bird Conservation in Nepal.

### **New Release Site in Switzerland**

In the year 2010 bearded vultures will be released at a **new site in the Calfeisen valley** in the canton St.Gallen, Switzerland.

Within the next decade a new population nucleus shall be established in the northern limestone Alps to broaden the genetic basis of the Alpine population.

The new release site is situated ~70km northwest of the former site in the Swiss National Park.



### **Breeding in the French Pyrenees**

According to Martine Razin the first clutch was found on 22nd of December 2009. In the new breeding season 4 additional pairs have been seen in formation. All of them are located in the eastern part of the massif (near feeding stations). The eastwards spreading gives good hope that soon the species will be able to get in touch with birds in the Alpes.

### **New Atlas**

As has been published by the Ecrins National Park recently a new atlas about the **breeding birds of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** has been published.

### **Poison kills thousands of African birds**



Some time ago the German online news **n-tv.de** reported mass killing of vultures in Africa. Unfortunately again it is "Cabofuran" which is used to kill carnivorous birds. Read more about the sad situation in the [News](#).

In another [article](#) about african vultures the high risk of poisoned baits was expressed by BirdLife International.

### **Europeanraptors.org**

Markus Jais, an enthusiastic German ornithologist, has published a new site about European raptors. Some weeks ago a short overview on the [Alpine bearded vulture project](#) was given.

Find more interviews e.g. [about the situation of vultures in Crete](#) given by Stavros Xirouchakis or [about the egyptian vulture in Bulgaria](#) given by Ivaylo Angelov here.

### **Golden Eagles**

#### **Count in Les Ecrins**

Between 22nd and 28th of March 2010 a big count of golden eagles will be carried out in Ecrins National Parc. Learn more about the [monitoring event](#) coordinated by Christian Couloumy.

### **Release**

In the next days the release of a rehabilitated golden eagle is planned. Learn more about the [history of that bird](#).

**New website**

A new website [about the Bavarian golden eagles](#) is online now.

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