

sampling recommendations

presented at the IBM meeting, 12.11.2011, Mallnitz

• Search intensively

- below each eyerie (~2hours per eyerie)
- <14 days after young fledged

• Collect many sample

- less important samples can be analysed when finances are available

• Label and prioritize samples

- indicate your hypothesis (young bird of this year? feather from parents?)

• Separate samples

- don't put feathers into the same envelop from which you believe that they could be from different birds

• samples from young birds are of special importance

- Remains of tissue from the growing feathers of juvenile birds are very valuable (s. picture). If they are found below eyeries, they are most likely from the young of this year (search soon after fledging <14 days)



• Search everywhere

- small feathers frequently trapped in grass
- turn stones below the eyeries: Remains of tissue from growing feathers get trapped below stones

• Sleeping places

- Visit also the places below the **sleeping places** of non breeding pairs.

• Enclose information

- date of collection
- coordinates, name of place
- estimated age of feathers
- name of finder
- your hypothesis.
- kind of sample (eyrie, below eyrie, sleeping place, accidental finding)

• Store the feathers dry and dark

- Store in a **closed paper envelope** (dry, avoid heat)

• Avoid eagles

- in several instances eagle instead of bearded vulture feathers were sent for the genetic analyses

