

Bearded Vulture



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gypaetus barbatus

GLOBAL RANGE

Mountains in Europe, Africa, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Tibet and Mongolia

EUROPEAN RANGE



GLOBAL STATUS

Near Threatened

GLOBAL POPULATION

1,300-6,700 mature individuals

HABITAT

Mountains

SIZE

110-155 cm

WEIGHT

4,5-7,1 kg

WINGSPAN

250-285 cm

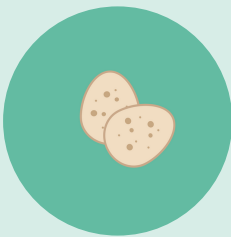
LIFE EXPECTANCY

Up to 50 years in captivity

BREEDING CYCLE



It becomes sexually mature at 5, and on average breeds at the age of 8-9. It starts mating in November and December, making it one of the first wild bird species to start breeding.



If successful, the female lays 1-2 eggs from December to February each year. The parents diligently incubate the eggs for around 52 to 58 days, until hatching.



Only one chick survives due 'cainism', an evolutionary behaviour where the older chick kills the younger. The chick fledges around 110-130 days after hatching.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bearded Vulture is the only vulture specialized in eating bones of dead animals. It is capable of swallowing and digesting bones the size of a sheep's leg! If bones are too big, it drops them onto rocks from a height of up to 100 meters to shatter them.



THREATS & CONSERVATION



Hunted and poisoned to extinction in the Alps, today, it made a comeback thanks to a reintroduction project based on captive-breeding that started in the 1970s.



To fight lead poisoning caused by ingesting lead hunting ammunition, the VCF shares expertise and implements several conservation measures, working together with hunters.



To minimize collision, a significant threat, several projects install anti-collision markers on dangerous cables across the Alps, the Massif Central and the Pyrenees.

WHY ARE VULTURES IMPORTANT?

As nature's cleanup crew, vultures provide important environmental services that benefit nature, wildlife and society as a whole.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEARDED VULTURE AND ITS CONSERVATION

Visit:
www.4vultures.org/vultures/bearded-vulture



Egyptian Vulture



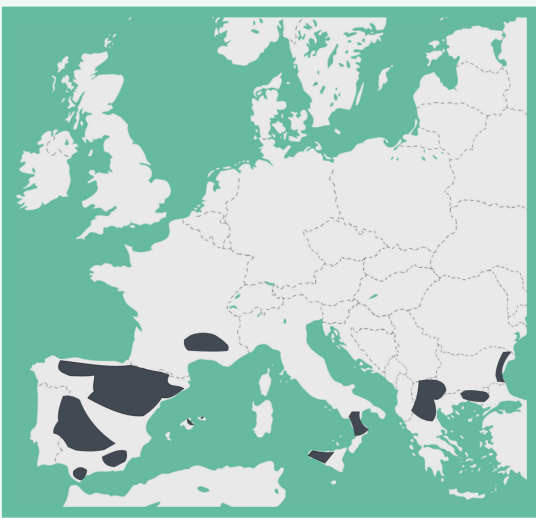
SCIENTIFIC NAME

Neophron percnopterus

GLOBAL RANGE

Africa, southern Europe, the Caucasus and Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent

EUROPEAN RANGE



GLOBAL STATUS

Endangered

GLOBAL POPULATION

12,000-38,000 mature individuals

HABITAT

Dry savannah, shrubland and grassland; breeds on cliffs

SIZE

58-70 cm

WEIGHT

1,6-2,2 kg

WINGSPAN

155-170 cm

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Up to 37 years in captivity

BREEDING CYCLE



It starts breeding when it reaches 4-5 years old. It begins mating in spring, much later than other European vulture species because it migrates back from Africa.



If successful, it lays 2 eggs on average in April or May. Both parents incubate the clutch. The first egg hatches after about 42 days, and the second 3-5 days later.



Young chicks usually take their first flights 90-110 days after hatching. Even after fledging, the birds are still dependent on their parents for at least a month.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Egyptian Vulture is the world's only tool-using vulture. It utilizes sharp rocks to crack open eggs for a tasty snack. It has a very varied diet. Its diet consists mainly of carrion, but also small mammals, young birds, fish, eggs, animal faeces and even rotting fruit.



THREATS & CONSERVATION



Due to its varied diet, the species is particularly vulnerable to consuming poisoned or contaminated food. Illegal wildlife poisoning remains the biggest threat to vultures.



To minimize electrocutions, hazardous cables should be insulated. However, selecting less dangerous pole designs, or burrowing lines in high-biodiversity areas seem better options.



As a long distance migratory vulture, travelling from Europe to Africa, it faces many threats across its flyway, including poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN VULTURE AND ITS CONSERVATION

Visit:
www.4vultures.org/vultures/egyptian-vulture



Griffon Vulture



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gyps fulvus

GLOBAL RANGE

Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Western Asia, Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent

EUROPEAN RANGE



GLOBAL STATUS

Least Concern

GLOBAL POPULATION

500,000-999,999 mature individuals

HABITAT

Rocky areas, shrubland, grassland; breeds on cliffs

SIZE

95-110 cm

WEIGHT

6-11 kg

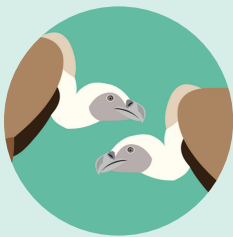
WINGSPAN

240-280 cm

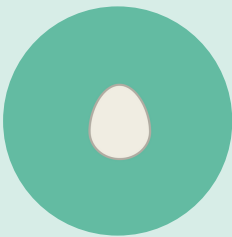
LIFE EXPECTANCY

Up to 37 years in captivity

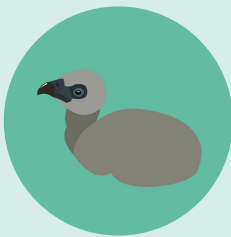
BREEDING CYCLE



The species breeds in colonies. It becomes sexually mature at 5 years old, but it can even breed at 4 or more rarely, at 3. The breeding season usually starts in December.



If successful, it usually lays one egg between January and April each year. The parents diligently incubate the egg for around 55 days, until hatching.



The parents will raise their chick until it takes its first flight and leaves the nest, around 110-120 days after hatching. After this, it might still return to the nest for food.

DID YOU KNOW?

Griffon Vultures are very social in comparison to other vulture species. They forage in groups and breed in colonies on steep cliffs, sometimes numbering hundreds of individuals. When they detect carrion, a feeding frenzy occurs, as individuals step on one another to acquire their preferred parts of a carcass.



THREATS & CONSERVATION



Following several conservation actions tackling threats like electrocution, the species is making an extraordinary comeback in Europe, with its breeding population exceeding 35,000 pairs.



Because Griffon Vultures forage in groups, poisoning can kill many individuals at a time. Projects like the Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project work to fight this severe threat.



To improve food availability, conservationists work with farmers to create win-win situations where farmers leave dead livestock in the field to get a free carcass disposal service by vultures.

WHY ARE VULTURES IMPORTANT?

As nature's cleanup crew, vultures provide important environmental services that benefit nature, wildlife and society as a whole.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GRIFFON VULTURE AND ITS CONSERVATION

Visit:
www.4vultures.org/vultures/griffon-vulture



Cinereous Vulture



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aegypius monachus

GLOBAL RANGE

Southern Europe, Northwest Africa, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia and East Asia

EUROPEAN RANGE



GLOBAL STATUS

Near Threatened

GLOBAL POPULATION

15,600-21,000

HABITAT

Forests, shrubland, grassland, forests. It usually nests in trees

SIZE

98-110 cm

WEIGHT

7,1-12,5 kg

WINGSPAN

250-295 cm

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Up to 40 years in captivity

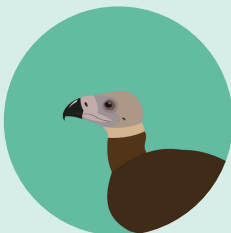
BREEDING CYCLE



The Cinereous Vulture becomes sexually mature at 5-6 years old. The species has the longest breeding period of all raptors in Europe, which starts from February.



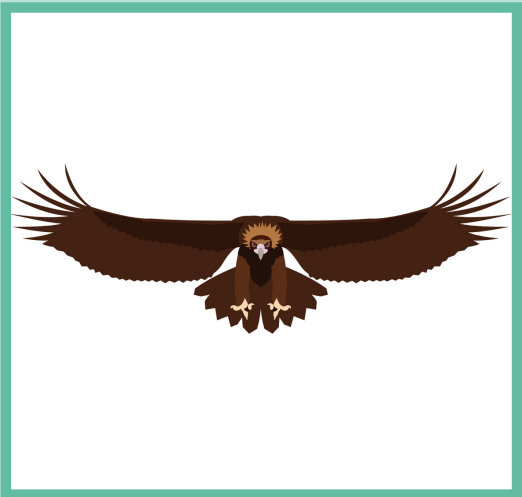
If successful, the female lays one egg from February to April each year. The parents diligently incubate the egg for around 55 to 60 days, until hatching.



The chick fledges around 100-115 days after hatching. After leaving the nest, young still return to the nest to obtain food and to roost.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cinereous Vulture is the largest vulture in Europe and one of the largest birds in the world. Due to its size and morphology, it feasts into a carcass first, using its sharp beak to break into the skin and feed on the tough tissues.



THREATS & CONSERVATION



The decline of food availability adversely affected vulture populations in recent years. One of the ways to tackle this problem is through supplementary feeding stations.



Poisoning was the main reason for the extinction of Cinereous Vultures in several regions. Tackling such threats is crucial before restocking and reintroduction efforts.



Electrocution and collision are serious threats to the species. It is crucial for the energy sector and conservationists to work together for new developments.

WHY ARE VULTURES IMPORTANT?

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CINEREOUS VULTURE AND ITS CONSERVATION

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