

# IOD 2020

## Preliminary summary

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15<sup>th</sup> International Bearded Vulture Observation Day

IOD period: 3. - 10.10.2020

Focal day: 3.10.2020



21. December 2020  
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## Background & preliminary results

**IOD** - For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the International Observation Days (IOD) were organised at the beginning of October to monitor Bearded Vulture populations in Europe. This annual event brings together hundreds of volunteers and experts to search the skies for Europe's rarest vulture across the Alps, the Massif Central in France, Aude in the French Pyrenees and Andalusia in Spain, as well as in Bulgaria. In 2020, the event was organised in seven countries by the regional coordinators of the International Bearded Vulture Monitoring Network (IBM), which is coordinated by the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) (Figure 2).

**Aim** - Since 2006 members of the public join Bearded Vulture experts and experienced bird watchers to carry out a simultaneous and coordinated survey on a focal day, that allows to estimate the number of Bearded Vulture in an area. This count also allows for thorough monitoring of the Bearded Vulture population status and distribution in almost the full distribution range. Furthermore, the count produces many sightings of identified individual, and it generates baseline data for conservation scientists to analyse survival rates and model the age structure of the population, which will help us understand differences in survival by region and impact of conservation measures.

**Preliminary results** - Due to unfavourable weather conditions on this year's focal day (3.10.2020) (Figure 3), the event had to be cancelled or postponed in some areas. Although this prevented simultaneous observations from being made across the entire monitoring area, **nearly 500 observation posts** were occupied by **787 observers** during the IOD period (3.-10.10.2020). Bearded Vulture observations have been reported from 176 (35%) out of 499 observation sites (Figure 1). Since a synchronous count was not possible this year and weather conditions did negatively influence the number of observations / identifications, no population estimates can be made for 2020. However, the collected data will be further evaluated to describe the age structure. Identified individuals provide important information that influence parameters for demographic modelling. These results will be published in a more detailed report in 2021.

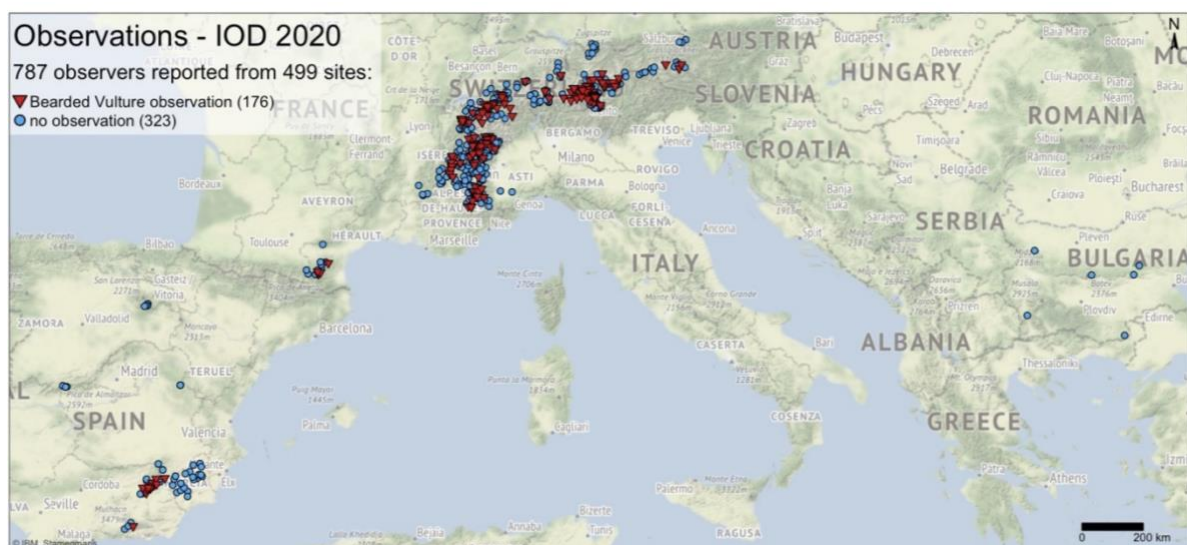


Figure 1. Bearded Vultures have been observed at 176 (red triangles) out of 499 occupied observation sites during the IOD-period (3.-10.10.2020).

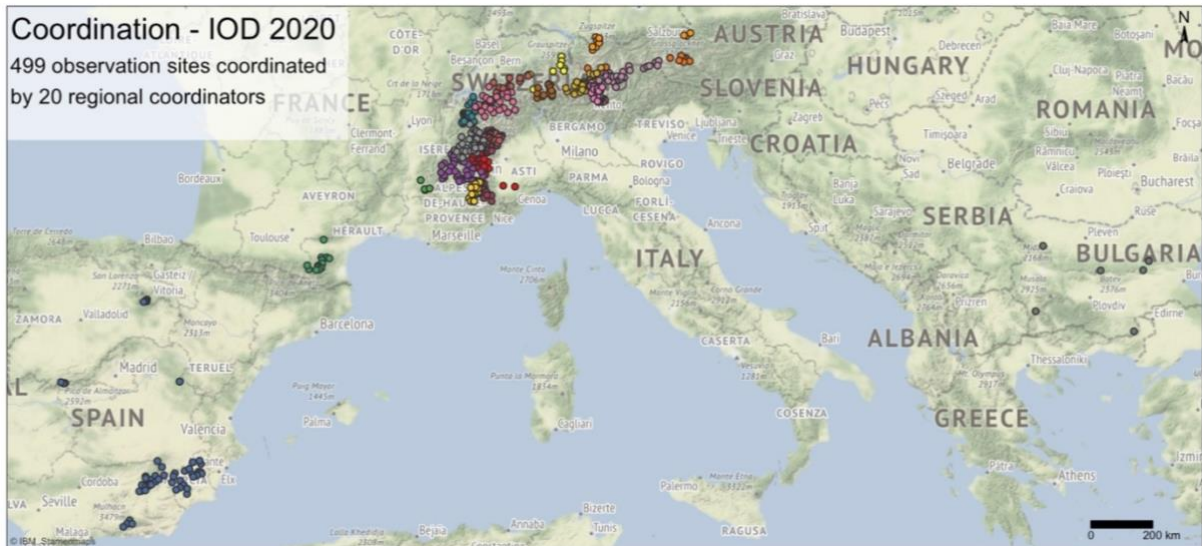


Figure 2. 20 regional coordinators (18 IBM-partners and 2 associated organisations) occupied 499 observation sites in seven European countries (ESP, FRA, ITA, CHE, AUT, GER and BRG).

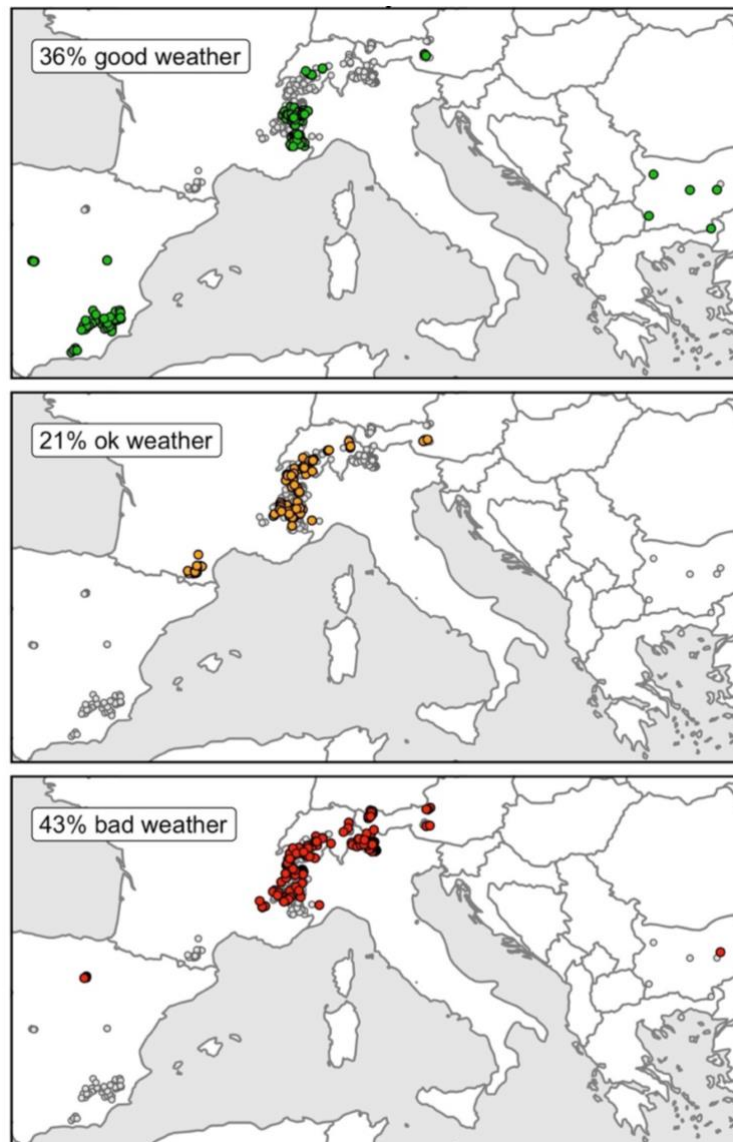


Figure 3. Only ~1/3 of the observation site profited from favourable weather on the focal day (3.10.2020).

# Collaboration & Funding



## ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS



## FUNDING-PARTNERS

