

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

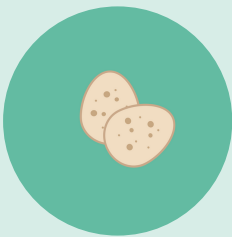
LIFE EXPECTANCY

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

