



INTERNATIONAL  
BEARDED CULTURE  
MONITORING

# IOD 2017

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## 12<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL BEARDED CULTURE OBSERVATION DAYS

**FOCAL DAY**

OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

**PERIOD**

OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2017





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**The IOD 2017 were organised by the following  
IBM-members<sup>1</sup> and associated organisations<sup>2</sup>:**

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# ABSTRACT

Between the **7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2017**, the International Observation Days (IOD), an annual bird watching event for bearded vultures, took place for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. This monitoring action is organised by the International Bearded Vulture Monitoring network (IBM) and covers the whole Alpine arc (since 2006), parts of the Massif Central (since 2012) and the eastern part of the Pyrenees (since 2016). In addition, the IOD were organised for the first time in Andalucía and Castilla y León this year – which is a further important step towards a range-wide monitoring of the European bearded vulture population.

A monitoring action of this scale and the fact that birds are identified on an individual level whenever possible, is unique and generates baseline information for survival analyses and demographic modelling, which give valuable insight into the reintroduction progress. With the expansion of the IOD, the public awareness for this flagship species and its conservation is growing every year. This is an important element for the long-term success of the restoration and reintroduction programs for bearded vultures in Europe.

With very favourable weather conditions at all of the **573 observation sites**, more than **920 observers**, 160 more than 2017, participated at the annual survey and reported more than **530 bearded vulture observations**. The successful implementation of our large-scale survey is strongly dependent on the work and expertise of the regional coordinators. Their background knowledge and their familiarity with the local situation enables them to evaluate the IOD-observation data and give an estimate about the population size in their region. These estimates and the observations were compiled, evaluated and summarised over the entire monitoring area in order to get an overview of the age class distribution and to compare the estimates on the alpine scale with the predicted population size from demographic modelling (Schaub et al. 2009)<sup>1</sup>.

On an Alpine scale, the analyses of the regional coordinators revealed a **minimal and maximal bearded vulture population size of 208 and 251 individuals, respectively, in the Alpine range**, based on a combination of the observation data collected during the focal day (2017/10/07) and the knowledge about individuals that have not been observed but are supposed to be present in the region (territorial birds, in some exceptional cases also their fledglings, GPS-tagged birds etc.). The **estimated age class distribution** is fairly well in line with the predicted values of the demographic model<sup>1</sup> with the exception of the subadult birds, which are difficult to identify correctly in the field (**56% adults, 4% subadults, 21% immature, 4% juveniles**).

In the **Massive Central the estimated population size is six individuals**, and **at least five, possibly six, different individuals have been observed in the Aude region of the French Pyrenees**. However, so far there is no evidence that bearded vultures are migrating between these two separated populations on a regular basis. The IOD in Andalusia and Castilla y León revealed a **minimal and maximal number of 22 and 33 different bearded vultures**, respectively, for the **monitoring area in and around the region of Jaèn (ESP)**.

Thanks to the IOD **70 bearded vultures could be identified on an individual level**, which provides valuable information about the life-history and survival rates of these birds. With 56 identifications in the Alps, this comprises around one fifth of all birds, estimated to be present in the Alpine range, and contributes to the unique data collection of the IBM, which is monitoring the development of this reintroduction project since 1999.

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<sup>1</sup> Schaub, M., Zink, R., Beissmann, H., Sarrazin, F., & Arlettaz, R. (2009). When to end releases in reintroduction programmes: demographic rates and population viability analysis of bearded vultures in the Alps. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 46(1), 92-100.

# BACKGROUND

During the International Observation Days (IOD) volunteers and experts search for bearded vultures throughout the Alps and surrounding areas in a simultaneous and coordinated survey. This, in conjunction with other monitoring data, allows us to get an estimate of the number of bearded vultures living in the Alps and the Massif Central. In particular, the joint efforts across the Alps allow to distinguish between bearded vulture individuals thus providing basic data for estimating population numbers. Further, these observations provide essential data for building and improving demographic models which enable us to assess the success of the reintroduction project. Furthermore, the observation days represent a big public event that helps to increase the awareness for this endangered species.

## METHODS

### Organisation

The monitoring is planned and executed simultaneously over all the alpine territories, in the Massif Central and in parts of the French Pyrenees (*see Fig. 1*) by local partners. This ultimately allows us to gain information about bearded vulture presence thus avoiding/reducing the chance of double counts and allowing us to get the big picture of bearded vulture distribution. In 2017, our Spanish colleagues also organised the IOD within parts of Andalusia and Castilla y León with the aim to share their results with the IBM-network and to contribute to get a wider picture about the bearded vulture population within Europe.

### Area

A network of partners allows to cover a large proportion of the area in the Alpine arc and the Massif Central (*Fig. 1*). As in the previous year, monitoring was expanded towards the Pyrenees (department Aude in France) in order to reveal exchanges between the separated populations. For the first time, data from Spanish observation sites in National Park Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Gredos, and Parque Natural de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas is included in the IOD report.

### Time Period

The 2017's international survey was held between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> October with the focal day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. The buffer period of one week is chosen to allow more flexibility for areas where the weather conditions are not suitable on the focal day. All dates are decided on mutual agreement among the IBM partners and take into account partner's availability, other ornithological appointments and the birds' reproductive behaviour. The fact, that bearded vultures are active in nest building, makes this a suitable period to observe the birds and record possible new territories and breeding pairs.

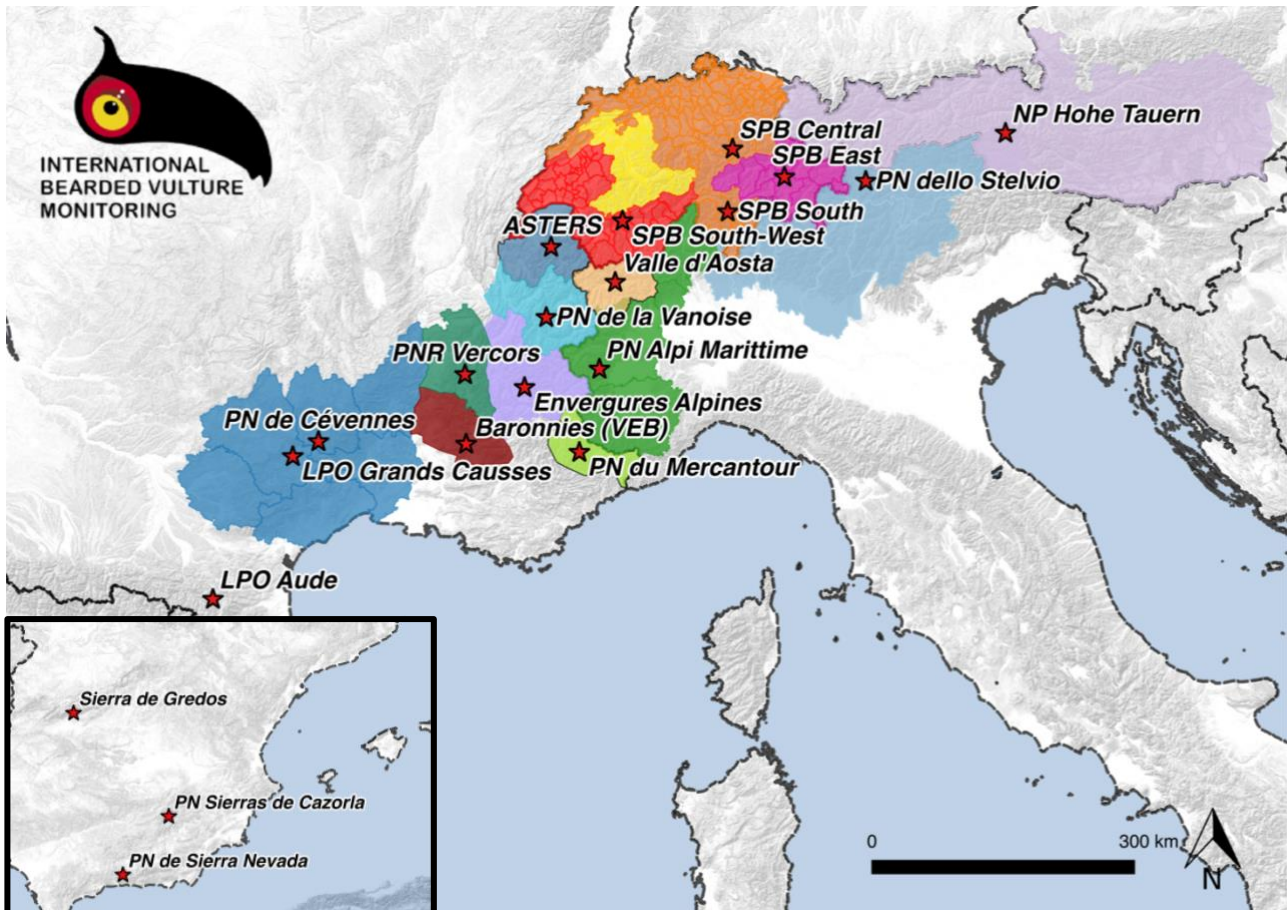


Figure 1: IBM partners and associated organisations taking part in the International Observation Days 2017. The coloured areas define the areas of responsibility for each official IBM partner. In 2017, the IOD were also conducted in the region Jaèn in Andalusia and Sierra de Gredos (small map on bottom left).

## Data collection and observation protocol

The survey took place between 10:00 am and at least 15:00 pm. For each observation site and bearded vulture sighting the following information was recorded:

### Observation site:

- date
- team/partner
- site name, address and coordinates
- site occupancy (time)
- weather conditions
- total number of observed bearded vultures
- presence/observation of other species
- observer name

### Bird observation:

- date
- time and duration of the observation
- age of the bird<sup>2</sup>
- bird name / hypothesis
- picture if possible

The teams are composed of one or more observers, at least one of them being experienced, equipped with binoculars and, depending on availability, telescope and camera.

<sup>2</sup> In age classes: juvenile (1.cy), immature (2.-3.cy), subadult (4.-5.cy) adult (≥6.cy)



## Data Analysis

All data is collected at the end of the day by the local administrator who will review the reported observations. The local administrators work in close cooperation with field assistants/ observers and other nearby local administrators responsible for the surrounding monitoring areas. Based on for example individual markings, temporal overlap of the sightings, knowledge about known territorial birds and their juveniles that still remain in the area, they are able to critically assess the number of observations and judge to how many individual bearded vultures the IOD observations refer to.

Since it is not always possible to assess whether several observations have been made of the same individual, the final estimate includes a minimal and a maximal count number, namely accounting for a stricter versus a less conservative analysis.

After a critical assessment of possible double counting, these results are summarised over the whole monitoring area in order to get an overview of the estimated bearded vulture population in the alpine range and the Massif Central. Finally, the resulting population estimates of the IOD are compared with the estimate that can be deduced from the demographic model of Schaub et al. (2009).

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Weather conditions

The year 2017 was a year with exceptionally good weather conditions for bearded vulture observations. 100% of the observations sites in the Alpine range, the Massif Central, the Pyrenees and in Spain reported favourable weather conditions (*Fig. 2*). Such weather conditions increase the detection probability of the individuals and are therefore very good prerequisites for a realistic estimation.

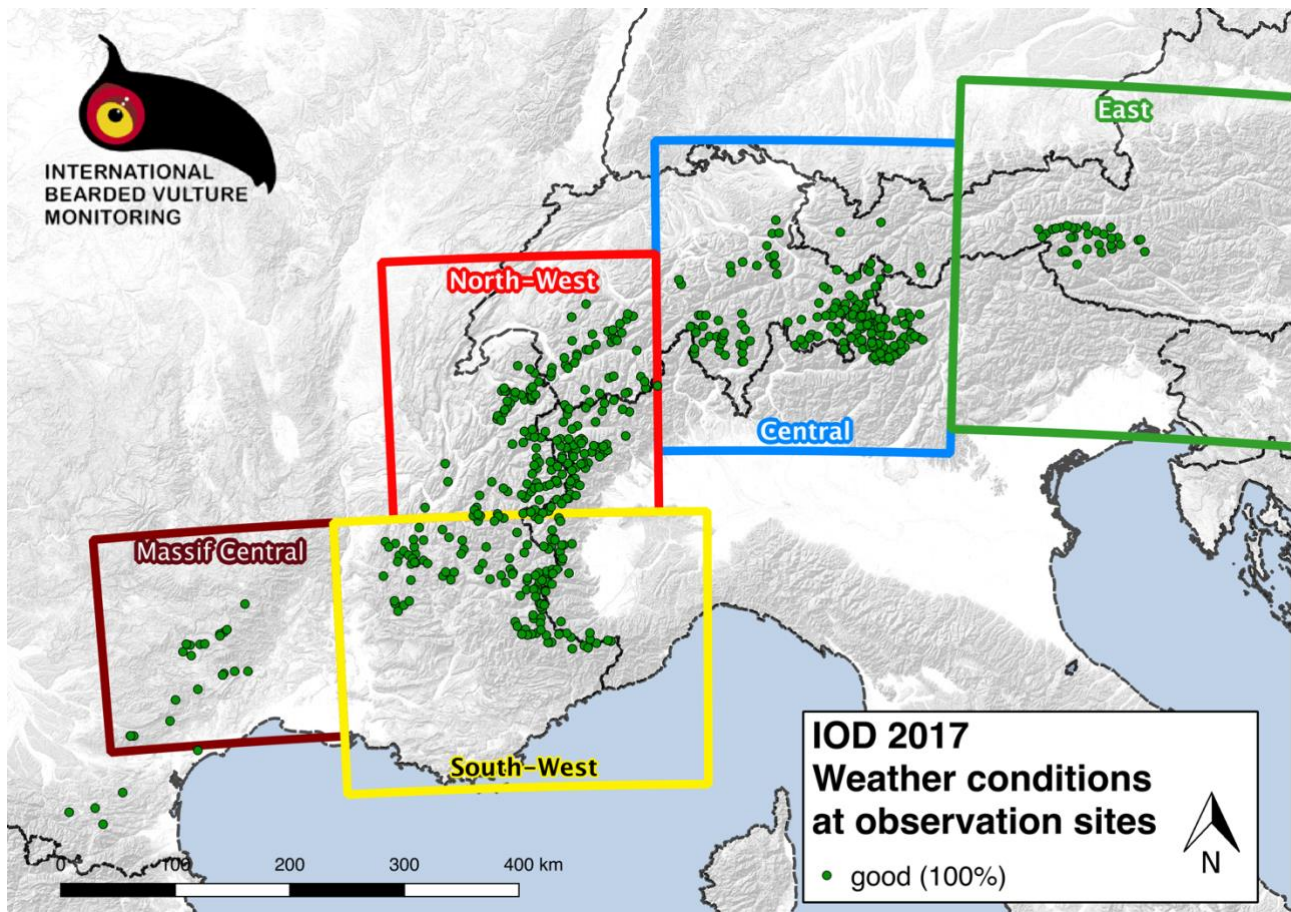


Figure 2: Weather conditions at the observations sites reported by the observers in the field during the IOD 2017. Good weather conditions were reported at all observations sites (100%), also at all observation sites in Spain (not on this map).

## Monitoring effort and success

In 2017, a total of **923 observers** have occupied **573 observation sites** spanning throughout the Alps, the Massif Central, close to the Pyrenees in the department “Aude”, parts of Andalusia and Castilla y León (Fig. 3 and Table 1). The area covered by the observers during the IOD has increased over the years. However, it has not been possible to cover the complete Alpine range (~188.000 km<sup>2</sup>) simultaneously (Fig. 3).

As in the previous years, the Western regions of the Alps remain the most thoroughly surveyed areas together with the area of the Stelvio National Park in the North of Italy. With additional observation sites close to the Spanish border near the Pyrenees the IBM monitoring network plans to cover regions that might serve as a connection between the bearded vulture populations from the Alps and the Pyrenees.

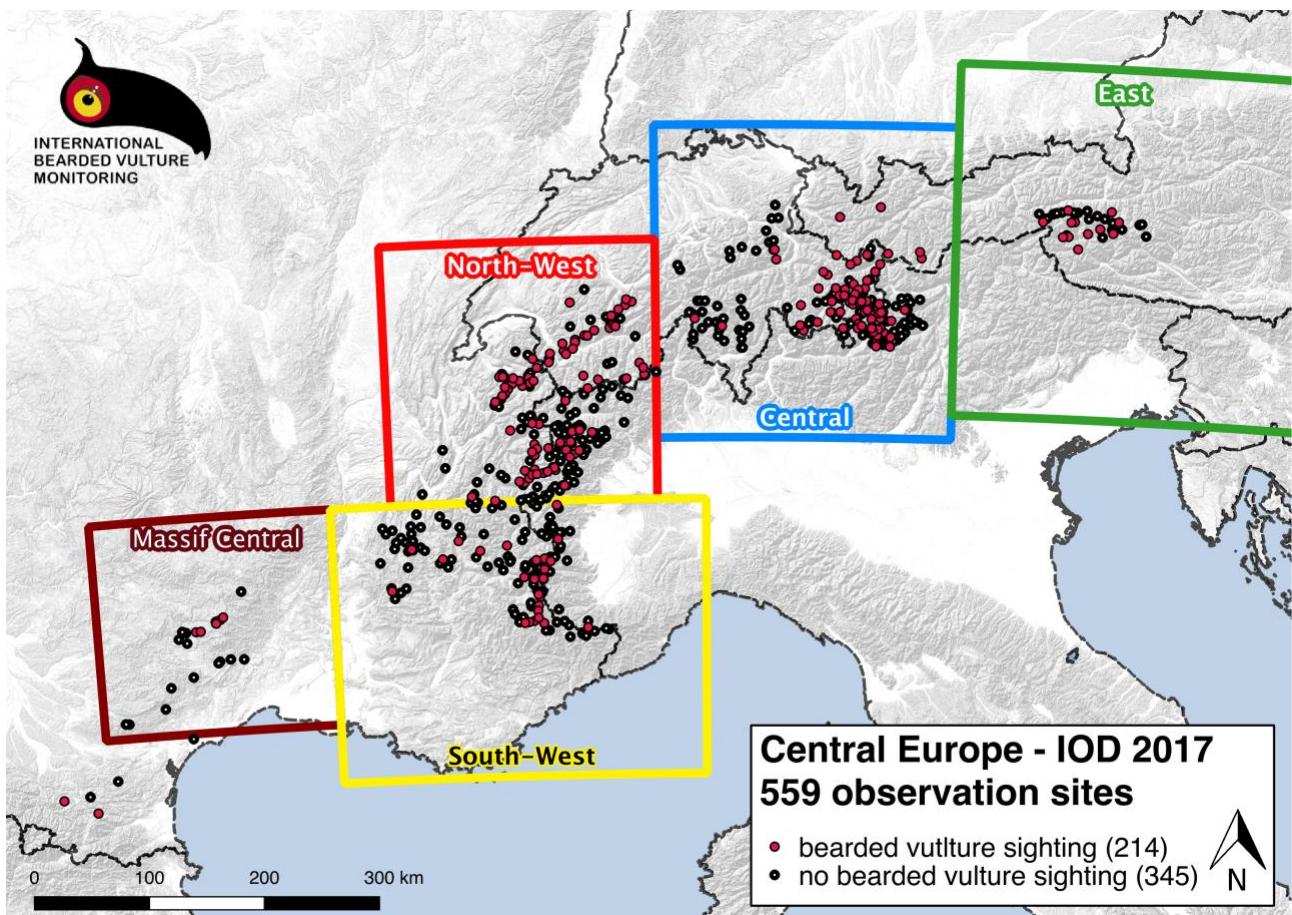


Figure 3: Map of the Alps, the Massif Central and parts of the Pyrenees and locations of all observation sites during the IOD 2017. Red dots depict those sites where bearded vultures have been observed at least once during the IOD period 7.-15. October 2017 while no observations have been reported from sites marked with black small circles. For details concerning Spain see figure 11.

Table 1: Number of observation sites (sites) and observers for each region during the IOD 2017. In the bottom lines the results of the three previous years that highlight a continuous increase of monitoring effort.

	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Observers</b>
<b>Alps</b>	<i>Eastern</i>	Austria	Hohe Tauern NP	37*	34**
	<i>Central</i>	Italy	Stelvio NP	91	179
		Switzerland	Engadin	49	59
		Switzerland	Central Switzerland	16	28
		Switzerland	Ticino	29	42
	<i>North-Western</i>	Switzerland	Wallis & Berner Oberland	41	65
		France	Haute Savoie	28	57
		France	Savoie	38	60
		Italy	Valle d'Aosta & Gran Paradiso NP	51	51
		France	Vercors NP	20	35
		France	Mercantour	39	77
	<i>South-Western</i>	France	Dauphiné	41	98
		France	Baronnies	6	9
		Italy	Alpi Marittime - WAON	46	61
		France	Grands Causses & Cévennes	22	37
<b>Massif Central</b>	France	Grands Causses & Cévennes	22	37	
<b>Pyrenees</b>	France	Aude	5	10	
<b>Spain</b>	Spain	Andalusia & Castilla y León	14	21	
<b>Total 2017</b>				<b>573</b>	<b>923</b>
<i>Results 2016</i>				528	774
<i>Results 2015</i>				496	708
<i>Results 2014</i>				415	634
<i>Results 2013</i>				437	596

\* several observers occupied more than one site on different days during the IOD period

\*\* simultaneous chamois survey with 400 hunters, which were also looking out for bearded vultures at the same time

Table 2: Number of bearded vulture sightings for each region during the whole IOD period 2017. In the grey box the results for the focal day.

Sector	Country	Region	October 2017										
			7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	Total	
Eastern	A	Hohe Tauern NP	13		4	1	3	3	3	7	6	<b>40</b>	
	IT	Stelvio NP	146									<b>146</b>	
Central	CH	Central Switzerland	7							2		<b>9</b>	
	CH	Engadin	35	2	1	1						<b>39</b>	
	CH	Ticino	2									<b>2</b>	
Alps	CH	Wallis & Berner Oberland	39	5	5	8	2	1	3	1	4	<b>68</b>	
	North-Western	FR	Haut Savoie	75								<b>75</b>	
		FR	Savoie	58								<b>58</b>	
		IT	Valle d'Aosta & Gran Paradiso NP	5	1	2	2			1	1	5	<b>17</b>
		FR	Vercors	1									<b>1</b>
South-Western	FR	Mercantour	17									<b>17</b>	
	FR	Dauphiné	7									<b>7</b>	
	FR	Baronnies	1									<b>1</b>	
	IT	Alpi Marittime - WAON	5	1								<b>6</b>	
<b>Massif Central &amp; Pyrenees</b>	FR	Grands Causses & Aude	9									<b>9</b>	
<b>Andalusia</b>	ES	Andalusia	18									<b>18</b>	
<b>Total</b>			<b>462</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>537</b>	

## Estimated number of bearded vultures

### ***E<sub>foc</sub>* - Based on observations (focal day):**

Although the total amount of observations gathered during the IOD can be used as an indicative of the presence of bearded vultures, it is not possible to use data from the whole week (IOD-Period) due to the high mobility of the species. In order to omit the possibility of double counting birds and to create a more accurate picture of the bearded vulture distribution, only observations from the focal day were used to determine the approximate number of birds (*E<sub>foc</sub>* = estimate based on observations (focal day) Table 3). Furthermore, regional coordinators were requested to communicate with nearby partners to avoid double counting of bird individuals.

### ***E<sub>hyp</sub>* - Hypothetically present birds:**

During the focal day it is not possible to observe and identify every single bird that is known to be present in a specific region. A second estimate (*E<sub>hyp</sub>* = hypothetically present birds) composed of the estimate based on observations (focal day) *E<sub>foc</sub>* and the number of individuals that were missed during the survey but that should be present in the region (e.g. territorial breeding pairs) should therefore give a picture of the expected number of bearded vulture individuals on the regional level (Table 3).

However, as the number of counted birds during the IOD depends on multiple external factors (weather conditions, observer etc.), these estimates are best used as a proxy for population trends and to be compared between years rather than directly and solely as a population size estimation.

We estimate the total number of observed bearded vultures in the Alpine range (*E<sub>foc</sub>*) to be between 152 and 182 individuals. Additionally, there are 11 (out of 29 tagged birds) which sent GPS data during the focal day and were not observed. Furthermore, in most regions information on resident, but not observed, birds are available. These three counts sum up to a minimum of 208 and maximum 251 birds (*E<sub>hyp</sub>*) present in the Alpine range. These numbers are higher compared to the results obtained during the last two years, where the weather conditions have not been as favourable as in this year (Table 4).

These estimates of hypothetically present birds *E<sub>hyp</sub>* represent 77% (conservative) or 92% (optimistic) of the total population that is predicted by the demographic model from Schaub et al. 2009 (predicted population size = 270, see Fig. 5) and are higher than the estimates from last year (70% resp. 89%) with poorer weather conditions. However, looking at the estimates based on observations only, it was possible to observe 57% or 69% respectively of the birds predicted by the model.

Table 3: Estimates of minimal (conservative) and the maximal (optimistic) number of bearded vulture individuals observed during the focal day ( $E_{foc}$ ) and hypothetically present ( $E_{hyp}$  = observed and known not-observed birds) in each region during the IOD 2017.

Sector	Country	Region	Based on observations (focal day) - $E_{foc}$		Total number of present birds - $E_{hyp}$	
			min	max	min	max
East	AUT	Hohe Tauern NP	9	13	16	24
Central	CHE	Central Switzerland	3	3	3	3
	CHE	Engadin	35	40	45	51
	CHE	Ticino	1	2	1	2
	ITA	Stelvio NP	21	22	23	25
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>
Alps	ITA	Valle d'Aosta & Gran Paradiso NP	5	5	13	16
	CHE	Wallis & Berner Oberland	17	20	25	29
	FRA	Haute Savoie	17	23	20	28
	FRA	Savoie	21	25	23	27
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>
South-West	FRA	Baronnies	1	1	1	1
	FRA	Dauphiné	4	7	4	7
	FRA	Mercantour	12	14	15	17
	FRA	Vercors NP	1	1	1	1
	ITA	Alpi Marittime - WAON	5	6	7	9
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>152</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>+11 GPS-tagged birds that have not been identified during the IOD</b>					<b>208</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>Massif Central</b>	FRA	Grands Causses & Cevennes	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pyrenees</b>	FRA	Aude	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Andalusia<sup>2</sup></b>	ESP	Andalusia	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>+ max. 14 GPS-tagged birds<sup>3</sup> that have not been identified during the IOD</b>					<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>

Table 4: Comparison of the estimated number of bearded vultures based on the survey during the IOD 2017 and the results from the last four years.

	Based on observations (focal day) - $E_{foc}$		Total number of present birds - $E_{hyp}$	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
<b>IOD 2017</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>251</b>
<i>IOD 2016</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>218</i>
<i>IOD 2015</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>199</i>
<i>IOD 2014</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>130</i>
<i>IOD 2013</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>128</i>

<sup>3</sup> Bearded vultures migrate between Andalusia, Castilla y León and the Pyrenees

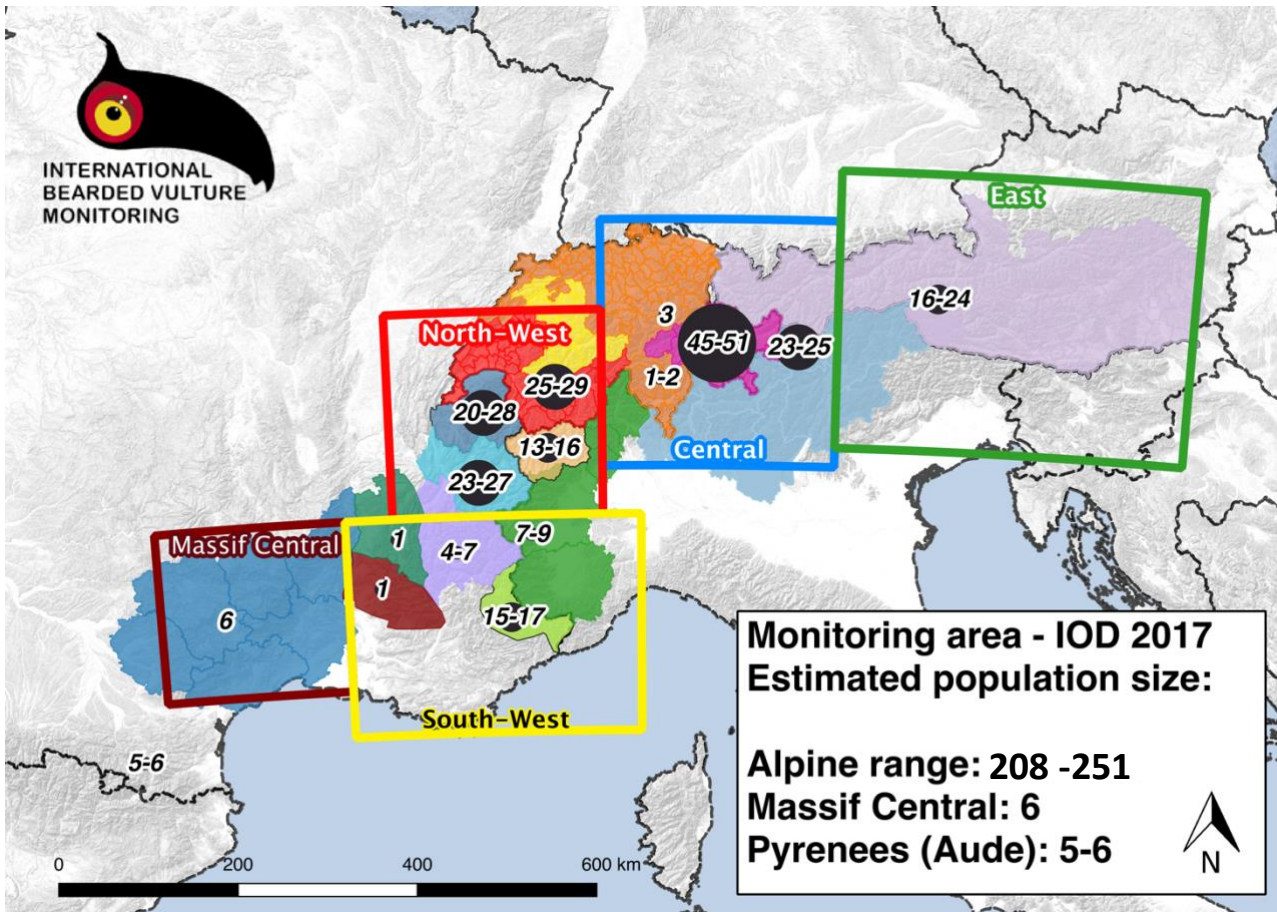


Figure 4: Overview of the estimated bearded vulture population size  $E_{hyp}$  on the regional level within the monitoring area of the IBM. Estimates of the populations size are based on estimates derived from observations during the focal day of the IOD 2017  $E_{foc}$  and birds that were not observed but should be present in the region (territorial and GPS-tagged birds = hypothetically present birds). Estimated population size in Jaèn, Andalusia ranges between 22-33 individuals (not on this map).



## Proportional distribution of age classes

By looking at the total number of observations during the IOD it is possible to get an overview of age class distribution, which should be representative of the general Alpine bearded vulture population. Per definition the IBM always uses calendar years (cy) for age specifications:

Table 5: IBM-standards age classification.

Entry in the IBM (life stage)	Calendar year (cy)	Real age (years)		Life history event
		Jan-Feb	Mar-Dec	
juvenile (1. year)	1	-	0	<i>hatch</i>
immature (2. year)	2	0	1	<i>non-territorial</i>
immature (3. year)	3	1	2	<i>non-territorial</i>
subadult (4. year)	4	2	3	<i>non-territorial</i>
subadult (5. / 6. year)	5	3	4	<i>potential nesting</i>
adult (≥ 6. year)	6	4	5	<i>potential breeding</i>
adult (≥ 6. year)	≥7	5	≥6	<i>potential breeding</i>

Comparing the results from the absolute numbers of observations with the estimated number of individuals per age class indicates that even though there is some variation, observation data can be used as an estimate for the age class distribution.

Similar to the previous years, most of the birds observed during the focal day on the IOD 2017 were adults (58%) followed by the immatures (20%) and juveniles (13%) (Table 6). In fact, similarly to last year's results, the proportion of sighted birds aged in their 5<sup>th</sup> calendar year or older (subadults & adults - potentially in age to establish a territory) almost reaches 2/3 of the total number of observations.

Finally, the results were compared to the expected number of living individuals per age class derived by the demographic model designed by Schaub et al. (2009) (Table 6, Fig. 5). The results from figure 5 indicate that the percentage of juveniles, immatures and adults coincide quite well with the model predictions, while especially the number subadultes is underestimated by the observations from the IOD. Generally, the number estimated based on observations is slightly lower than the number predicted by the model.

There are multiple and additive explanations for the observed discrepancies in the age class distribution (A) and total estimate of the population size (B):

- A. More stable birds (adults) might be easier to recognise, detect and monitor as they settle into a region and are territorial. In addition, many observation sites were situated in the core area of known breeding units.
- A. Juveniles are also easier to detect as they are easier to discern from the other age classes and often the parents have already been detected by rangers and the territory is therefore regularly visited. Additionally, released birds up to 2 to 3 years can be identified individually thanks to the visible markings. Therefore, it is easier to identify birds of this age class.
- A. In general it is considered difficult for non professional ornitologist to determine the age of young vultures (especially subadult and immature) and could therefore represent the number of observations under the category "unknown".
- B. The model of Schaub et al. is based on survival rates over the whole Alpine area and does not take differences in regions into account.
- B. The model of Schaub et al. (2009) is based on only two survival rates. One for juveniles (1.cy) and one for all older birds. The reality might be more complicated.

Table 6: Proportion of bearded vultures per age class based on observations reported during the focal day during the IOD 2017. Based on these observations the regional coordinators estimated a minimal and maximal number of bearded vultures per age class (estimated from observations  $E_{foc}$ ). The estimate of the birds that are hypothetically present also includes territorial birds, the birds that are known to be present in the region as well as the GPS-tagged birds that have not been identified during the IOD-period (estimated hypothetically present  $E_{hyp}$ ).

Age class	Observed 2017	Observed 2016	Observed 2015	$E_{foc}$ 2017	$E_{hyp}$ 2017
	absolute	absolute	absolute	mean (min/max)	mean (min/max)
Adult	279 (59%)	274 (60%)	222 (53%)	97 (58%)	134 (56%)
Subadult	20 (4%)	20 (4%)	40 (10%)	8 (5%)	10 (4%)
Immature	73 (15%)	62 (14%)	59 (14%)	33 (20%)	49 (21%)
Juvenile	55 (12%)	53 (12%)	42 (10%)	21 (13%)	35 (15%)
unknown	46 (10%)	44 (10%)	54 (13%)	9 (<5%)	10 (4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>238</b>

	Year	Juvenile %	Immature %	Subadult %	Adult %	Total
<b>Prediction based on model<sup>1</sup></b>	2017	37 14	50 19	36 13	147 54	270
<b>Estimate based on survey</b>	<b>IOD 2017</b>	<b>35 15</b>	<b>49 21</b>	<b>10 4</b>	<b>134 56</b>	<b>228*</b>

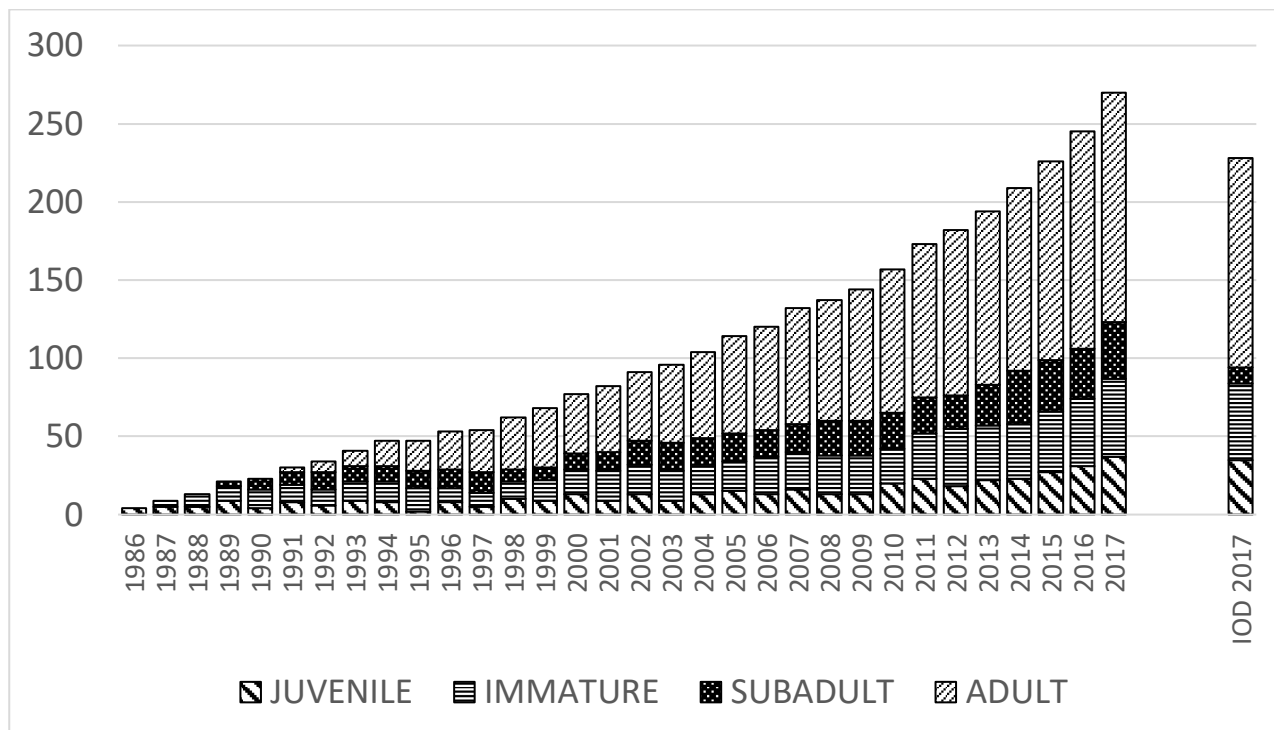


Figure 5: Predicted number of bearded vultures per age class according to the demographic model by Schaub et al. 2009<sup>1</sup> in comparison to the estimated number of birds that should hypothetically be present based on observation data (IOD 2017) and expert knowledge from regional coordinators. (\*mean of minimal = 208 and maximal = 251 estimated number of hypothetically present bearded vultures and the GPS-tagged birds that have not been identified during the IOD 2017; birds with unknown age are not included).

## Spatial distribution of age groups

From 573 sites 537 bearded vulture sightings have been recorded during the whole period, 462 during the focal day (*Table 2*).

In terms of reintroduction and resettlement of a species like the bearded vulture, it is of interest to gain a picture of the spatial distribution of different age classes. In particular, the presence of sexually mature adult birds can be an indicator for the formation of new reproductive units in the periphery of the species' distribution.

The following figures 6-11 show the presence of bearded vultures subdivided in the two age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) at the regional level and give a more detailed overview on the bearded vulture distribution during the whole observation period. Each symbol on the map represents the position of an observation site.

### Alpine range

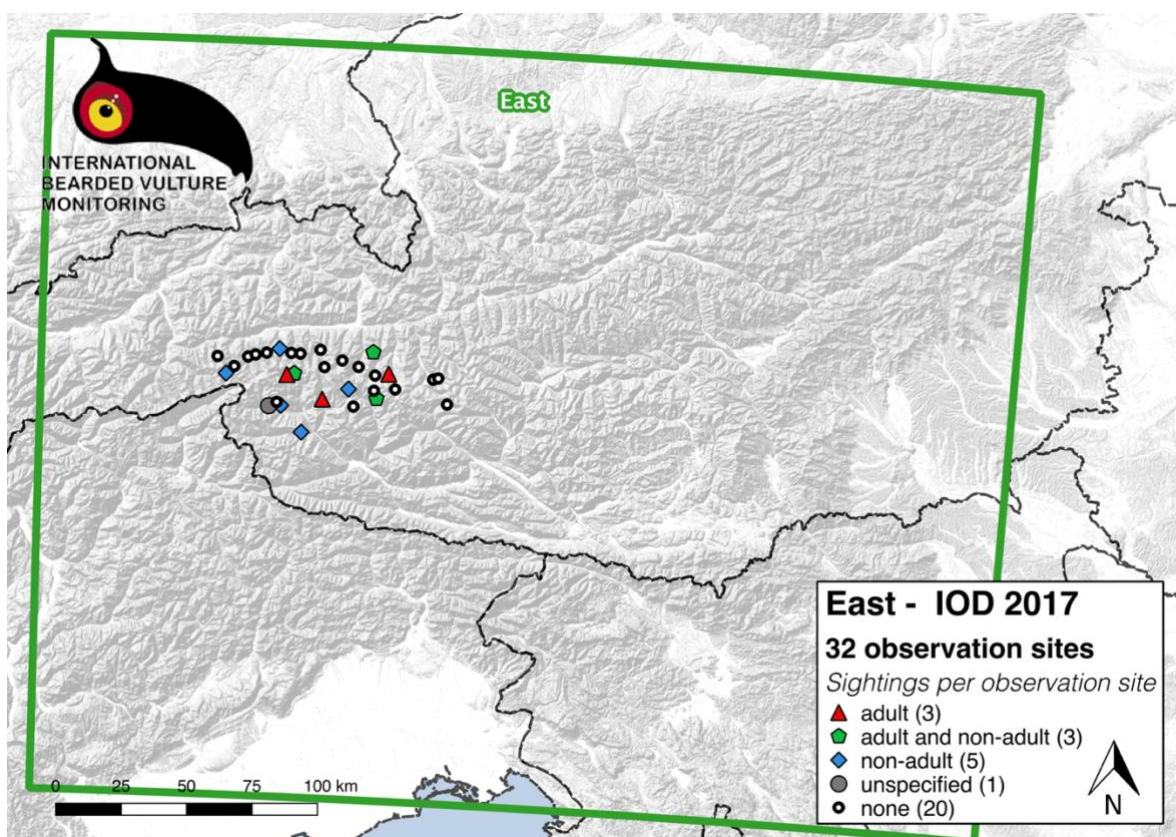


Figure 6: Eastern Alps, distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 32 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals in this sector: 10-17 adult,  $\leq 1$  subadult, 2 immature, 1 juvenile and 2-3 unspecified birds. Total 16 – 24 bearded vultures.

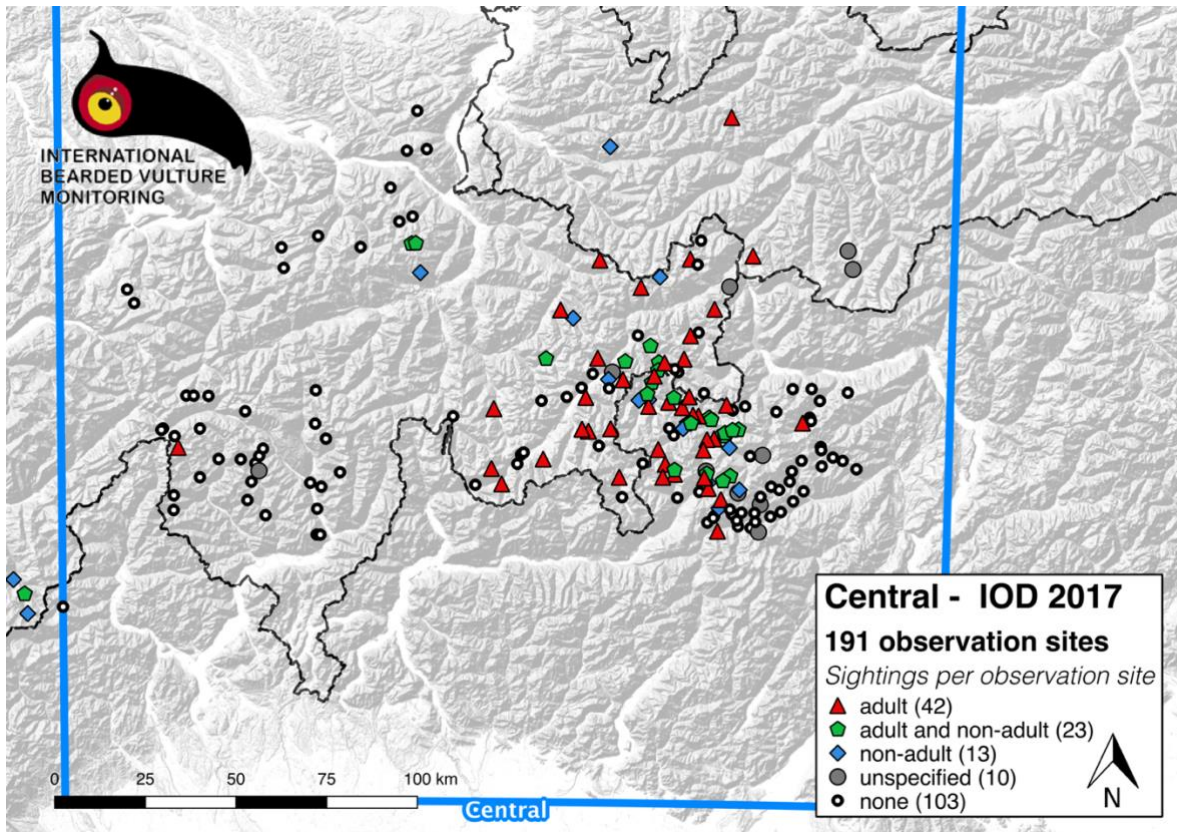


Figure 7: Central Alps, distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 191 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals in this sector: 44-49 adult, 3 subadult, 6-7 immature, 15-17 juvenile and 4-5 unspecified birds. Total 72 – 81 bearded vultures.

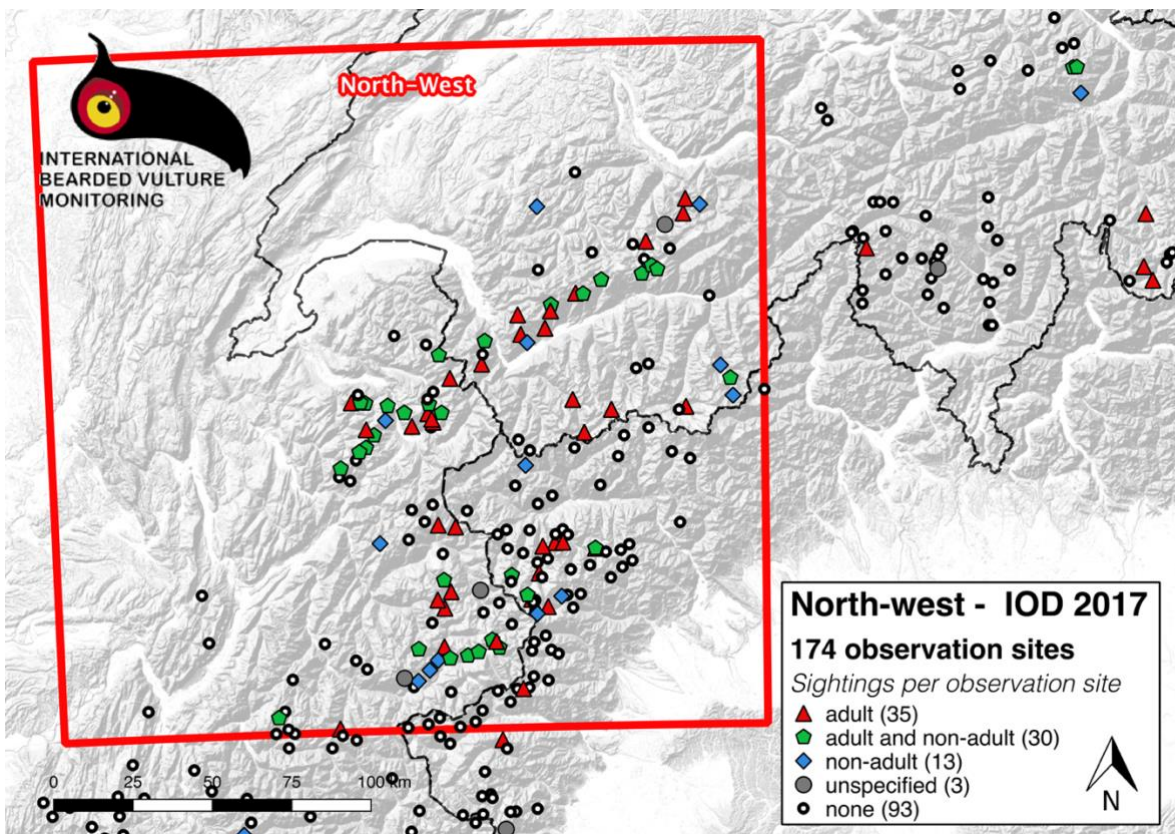


Figure 8: North-Western Alps, distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 174 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals in this sector: 50-63 adult, 2 subadult, 17-21 immature, 12-14 juvenile. Total 81 – 100 bearded vultures.

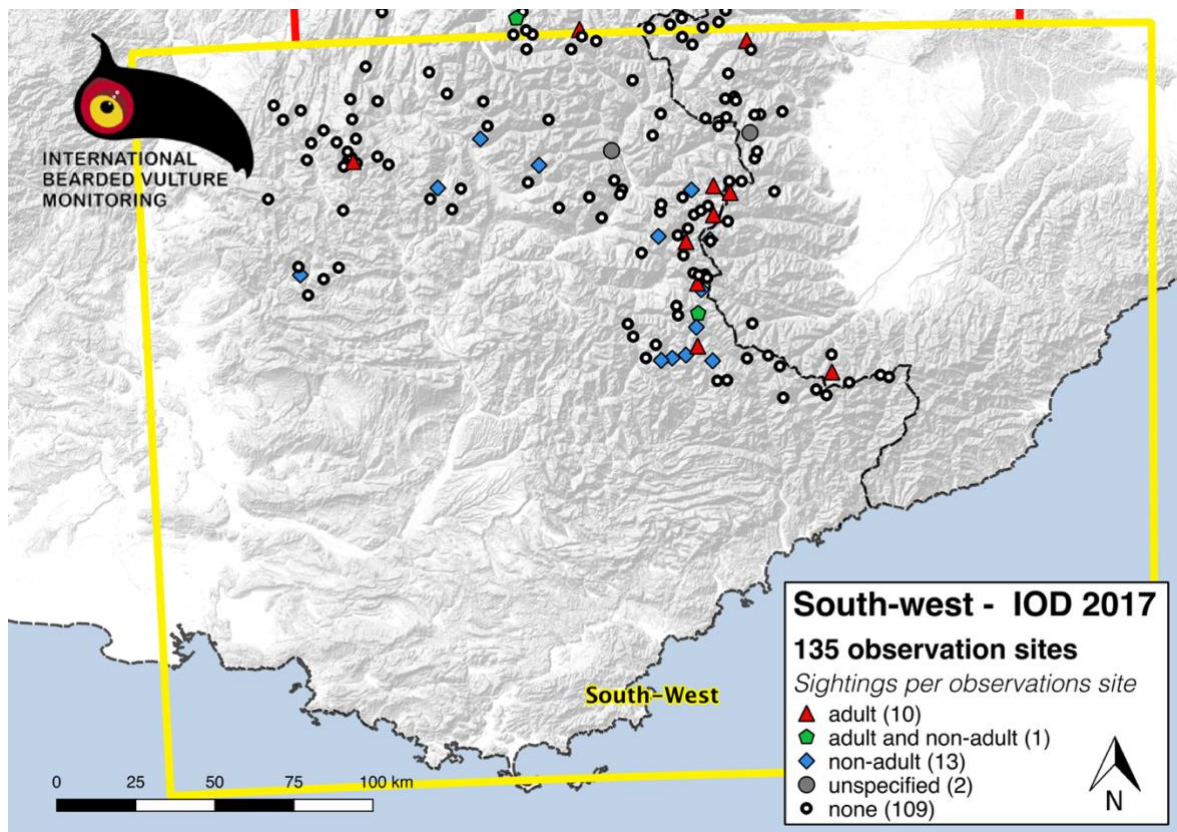


Figure 9: South-Western Alps, distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 135 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals in this sector: 16-18 adult, 2 subadult, 3-7 immature, 3 juvenile and  $\leq 2$  unspecified bearded vultures. Total 28-35 bearded vultures.

## Massif Central, Pyrenees and Spain

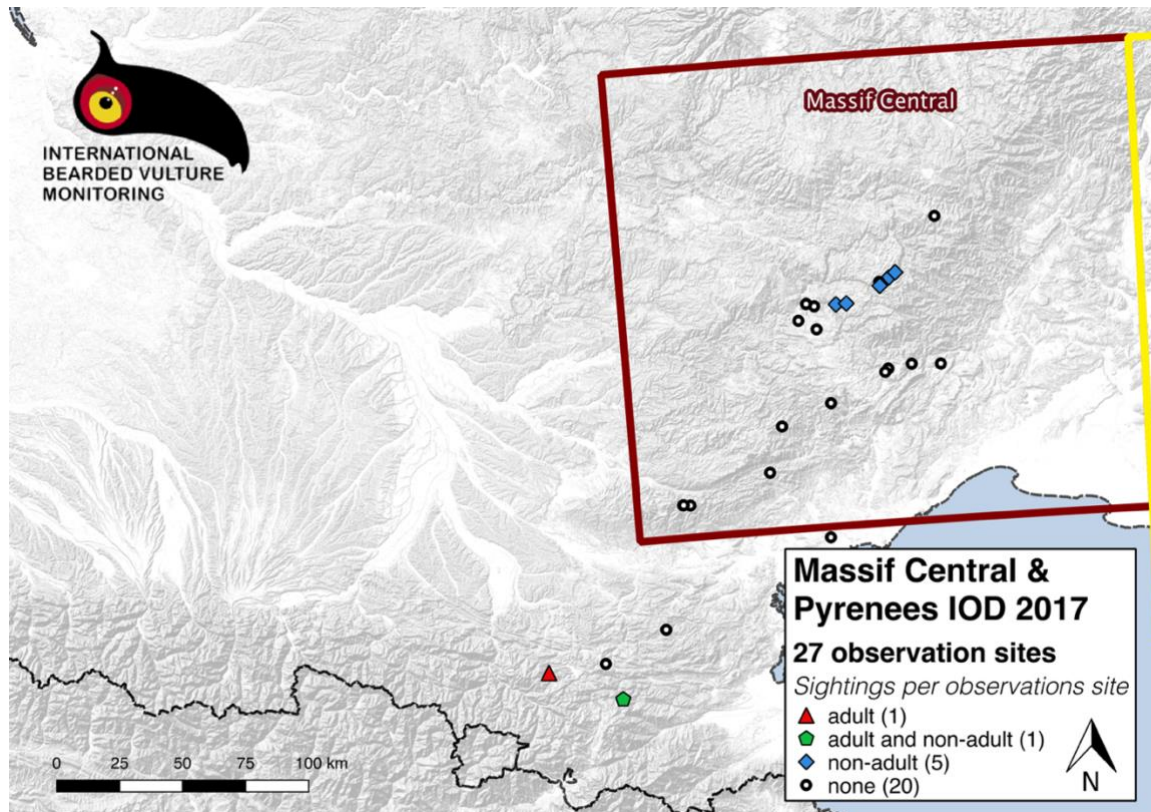


Figure 10: Grands Causses, south Massif Central and north-eastern Pyrenees (Aude), distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 27 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals in this sector: 4 subadult, 2 subadult, 1 immature and 4 juvenile birds. Total around 11 bearded vultures.

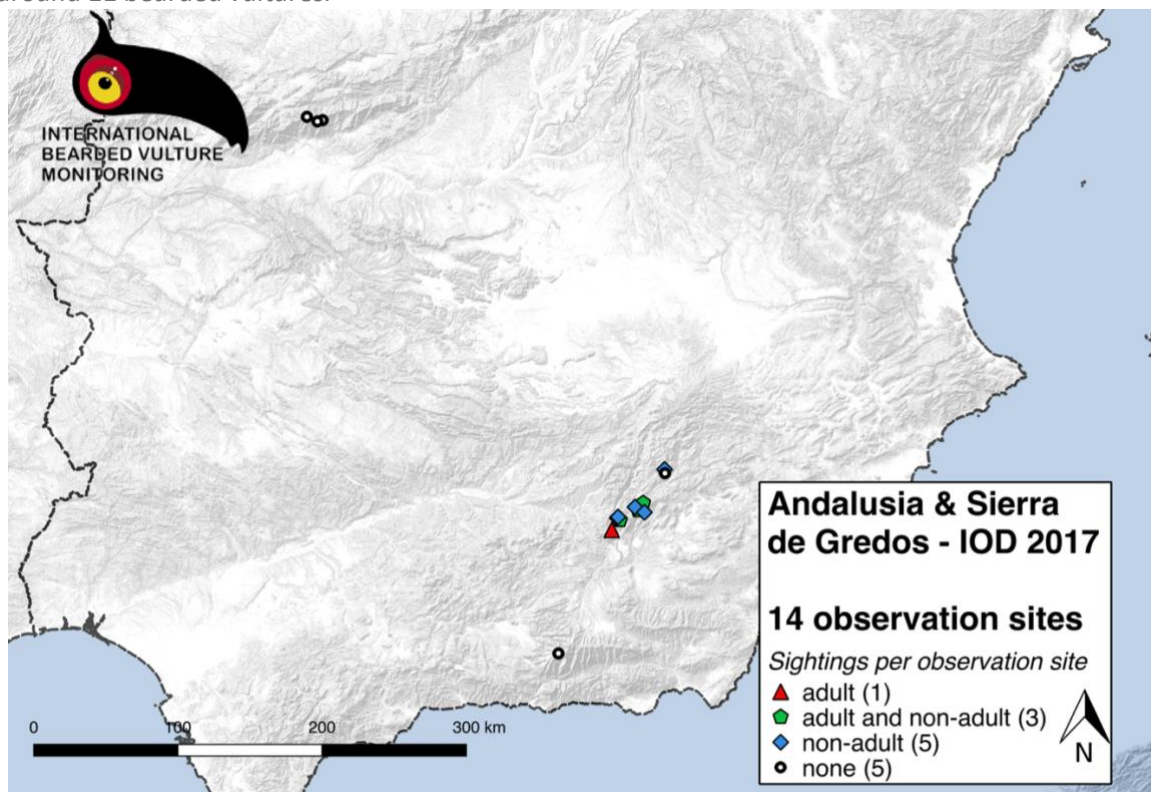


Figure 11: Andalusia and Sierra de Gredos (Castilla y León), distribution by age groups adult and non-adult (juvenile, immature, subadult) that were reported on the 14 observation sites. Estimated number of bearded vulture individuals: 4-6 subadult, 3-4 subadult, 1 immature and 5 juvenile birds. Total around 22-33 bearded vultures.

## Telemetry data during the IOD

### Alpine range

During this year's IOD GPS-data was available from 27 birds on the focal day (7.10.2017). Out of the 27 GPS-tagged birds 15 individuals could be sighted and identified, while 1 bird was identified with high probability by observers (more than 50% of the GPS-tagged birds have been sighted and identified). However, it is possible that some of the remaining 11 tagged birds have been observed but could not be identified (e.g. distance too big, no markings etc.).

During the observation period GPS-data of 27 out of 30 bearded vultures with satellite tags have been retrieved in the Alpine range, the Massif Central and the Pyrenees (Fig. 11), while three tags did not send data during this period (Adonis – BG794, Herculis – BG849, Ewolina – BG838). Although this data is not part of the IOD, this information is collected as representative of their positions and to detect areas of monitoring deficiencies. Some of these birds still show their individual marking patterns (bleached feathers) and can therefore be identified by observers. Exceptions are the wild-born birds (e.g. Gemapi, Neige and Gypsy, Roc Genèse) which have been GPS-tagged but not marked by bleaching their feathers.

GPS data can serve as an indicator to assess the risk of double counting of individuals. Especially in young bearded vultures which tend to fly long distances (e.g. Gypsy travelled more than 80km on the focal day 2017) and could therefore be counted in two distinct monitoring areas.

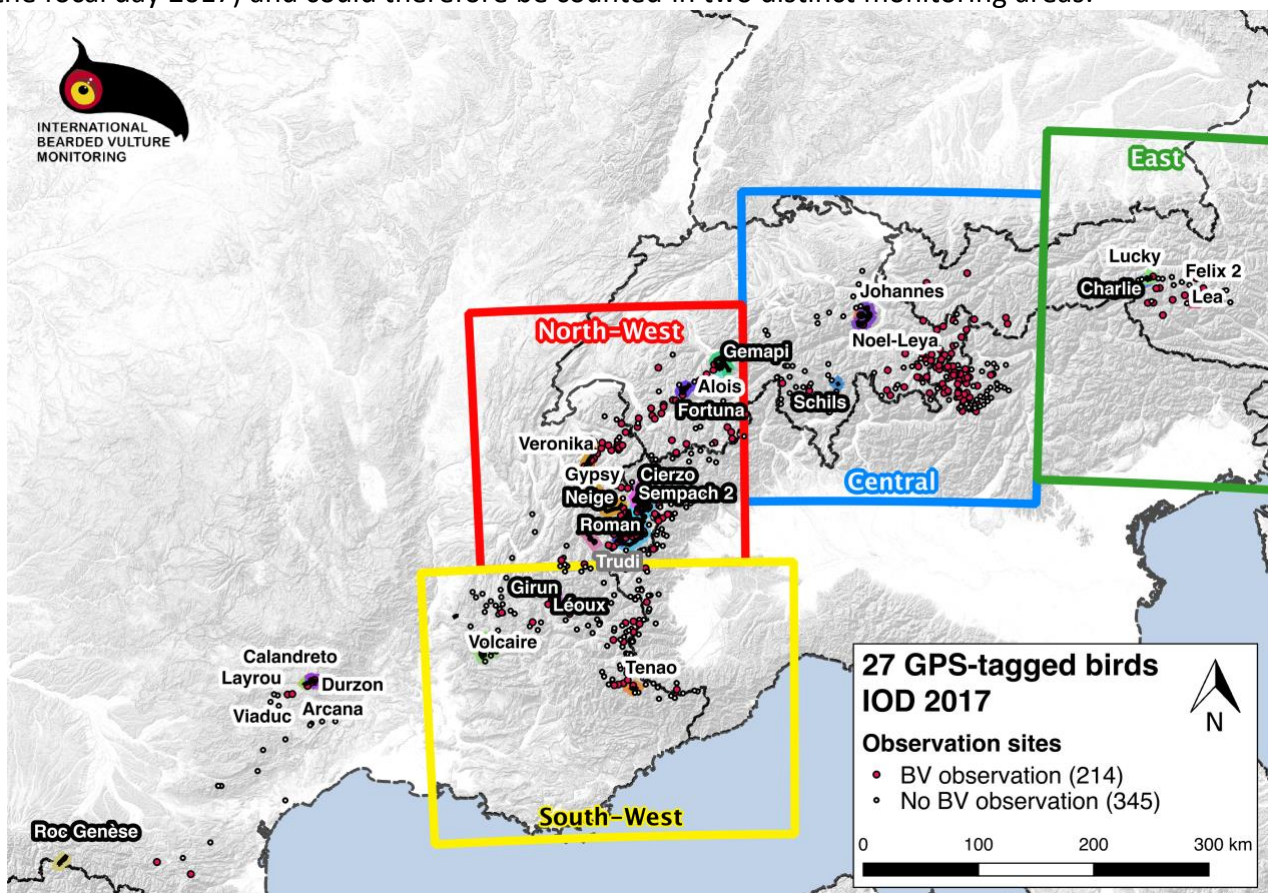


Figure 12: Positions of 27 bearded vultures tagged with GPS transmitters that were present in the monitoring area during the focal day (7.10.2018). During the IOD-Period 15 birds have been identified (white outline), 1 bird (Trudi BG842) has been identified with high probability (grey outline) and 11 birds couldn't be identified (black outline). The GPS-tags of Adonis (BG794), Herculis (BG849) and Ewolina (BG838) did not send data on the focal day and Mison (W230) was only released on the 12.10, and is therefore not visible on this overview.

## Spain

This overview over the GPS-locations of 19 bearded vultures during the period from the 8<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 indicates, that the birds are occasionally migrating between the monitored regions and the Pyrenees. During the focal day, location data from 4 different birds has been collected and 6 birds have been identified during the survey.

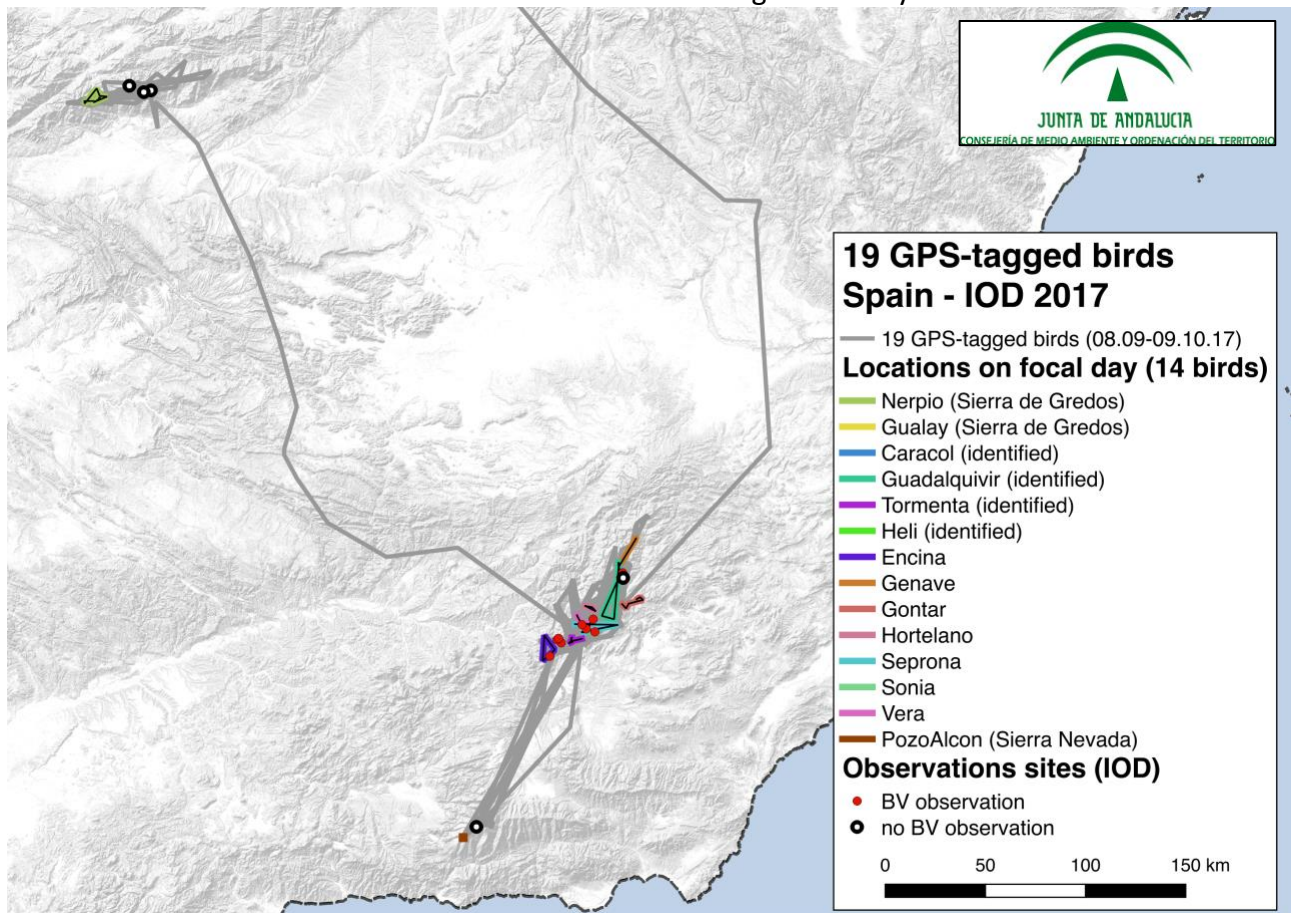


Figure 13: GPS locations of 19 GPS-tagged birds between the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 in Spain (in grey) show that individuals occasionally migrate between the monitored regions, Sierra de Gredos, Picos de Europa and even the Pyrenees. GPS-locations of 14 different birds were collected during the focal day (07.10.2017) close to the observation sites in PN de Sierra Nevada, PN Sierras de Cazorla (Andalusia) and Sierra de Gredos (in colour). 6 GPS-tagged birds have been identified during the focal day, however GPS-data is only available from 4 of these birds (Gualay, Guadalquivir, Tormenta, Heli), while there is no data available from Ferguson and Estela. Red points indicate observation sites where bearded vultures have been observed during the focal day, while no bearded vultures have been reported from the observation sites marked in white.



## Identified individuals

During the IOD 2017 period 70 individuals (56 in the Alpine range) have been identified with high probability, while another 3 birds could not have been identified with certainty (marked with an asterisk (\*)) in *Table 7*). For the Alpine range, the 56 identified birds account for 20% of the total estimated population size predicted by the demographic model by Schaub et al. 2009 (270 individuals). The identified birds are mostly territorial birds and their chicks or recently released birds.

*Table 7: List of bearded vultures that were identified during the IOD 2017 grouped by the region where they have been observed. 22 individuals were tagged with GPS, however there is no telemetry data available from Adonis (BG794), Herculis (BG849), Estela (BG746) and Ferguso (W242) during IOD-period<sup>1</sup>. Three individuals that could not be identified with certainty are marked with an asterisk (\*).*

Nr.	Bird	ID	Sex	Age (cy)	Territory	Region	Zone
1	Andreas Hofer	260	m	22	Gastein/Rauris	Hohe Tauern	East
2	Pinzgarus	558	m	10	Gschlöß		
3	Glocknerlady	718	f	6	Gschlöß		
4	Felix2 (GPS)	793	m	4			
5	Lea (GPS)	840	m	3			
6	Lucky (GPS)	909	m	2			
7	Noel-Leya (GPS)	797	m	4		Central Switzerland	
8	Johannes (GPS)	964	m	1			
9	Diana-Stelvio	W07	f	18	Albula	South-eastern Grisons	Central
10	Bergün2017	W229	u	1	Bergün		
11	Folio	463	f	13	Maloja		
12	Rurese	559	m	10	Maloja		
13	Livigno	W08	m	18	Ofenpass		
14	Ortler	439	f	14	Ofenpass		
15	Ofenpass2017	W231	u	1	Ofenpass		
16	Moische-Livigno	W11	f	16	Sinestra		
17	Spöl2017	W212	u	1	Spöl		
18	Martell	395	f	16	Tantermozza		
19	Zebra	W12	m	16	Tantermozza	Stelvio NP, Trentino & Sondrio	
20	Moische	146	f	27	Livigno		
21	Cic	186	m	25	Livigno		
22	Astrid-Livigno	W235	u	1	Livigno		
23	Bergl	W236	u	1	Ortler		
24	Temperatio	495	f	12	Val Martello		
25	Tell	283	m	21	Valle del Braulio		
26	Stift	393	f	16	Valle del Braulio		
27	Dànilo-Braulio	W233	u	1	Valle del Braulio		
28	Felice	375	f	17	Zebra		
29	Heinz-Serraglio	W45	u	11	Zebra		
30	Talat Deger-Zebrù	W234	u	1	Zebra		

Nr.	Bird	ID	Sex	Age (cy)	Territory	Region	Zone
31	Jalouvre	W218	u	1	Bargy	Haut Savoie	North-west
32	Veronika (GPS)	321	f	19	Sixt Fiz		
33	Nonno Bob	548	m	10	Andagne	Savoie	
34	Beaugosse				Andagne		
35	Gypsy (GPS)	W209	u	1	Aravis		
36	Paynavala	W238	u	1	Peisey-Nancroix		
37	Trudi (GPS) *	842	f	3			
38	Herculis * <sup>1</sup>	849	m	3			
39	Michegabri	488	m	12	Chamoussière	Valle d'Aosta & Gran Paradiso NP	
40	Swaro	459	m	13	Derborence_down	Wallis & Bernese Oberland	
41	Pablo	359	m	18	Derborence_Vérouet		
42	Guillaumes	411	f	15	Derborence_Vérouet		
43	Diablon-Vérouet	W217	u	1	Derborence_Vérouet		
44	Tantermozza2017	W225	u	1	Tantermozza		
45	Alois (GPS)	900	m	2			
46	Volcaire (GPS)	905	m	2		Baronnies	South-west
47	Bellemotte	708	f	6	Bonette	Mercantour	
48	Cuneobirding	491	f	12	Chambeyron-Ubayette		
49	Stephan	616	m	8	Chambeyron-Ubayette		
50	Rocca	516	m	11	Source de la Tinée		
51	Girasole	549	f	10	Source de la Tinée		
52	Sirius *	W224	u	1	Source de l'Ubaye		
53	Tenao (GPS)	755	m	5			
54	Paolo Peila	388	m	16		Piemont & Alpi Marittime	
55	Palanfre	435	f	14		Vercors	
56	Kirsi	764	m	5			Massif central
57	Layrou (GPS)	761	m	5		Grands Causses	
58	Arcana (GPS)	954	f	1			
59	Calandreto (GPS)	948	m	1			
60	Durzon (GPS)	945	m	1			
61	Viaduc (GPS)	946	m	1			

...

Nr.	Bird	ID	Sex	Age (cy)	Territory	Region	Zone
62	Tono	486	m	13	Guadalentín	Jaén	Andalusia
63	Blimunda	633	f	9	Guadalentín		
64	Caracol (GPS)	965	m	2			
65	Estela (GPS) <sup>1</sup>	746	f	6			
66	Félix-Cazorla	W241	u	2			
67	Ferguson (GPS) <sup>1</sup>	W242	m	1			
68	Guadalquivir (GPS)	751	m	6			
69	Heli (GPS)	955	m	2			
70	Sansón	767	m	6			
71	Bigup	856	m	4			
72	Tormenta (GPS)	963	f	2			
73	Viola	707	f	7			

# OUTLOOK 2018

The IBM steering committee fixed the date for the next International Observation Day:

**Period 6<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2018**

**Focal Day is the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2018.**

Even though a period of one week was chosen for public communication, we would like to stress the importance of focused observation intensity. Observations can be cumulated only within the core period. Therefore, **the count by specialists and volunteers on observation posts shall be carried out only during the focal day.**

The focal time for the count starts at 10 am to at least 3 pm.

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Julien Traversier	Luc Lemmenmeier	Marco Ranaglia

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Marco Salvioni	Martine Sonnenwyl	Michel Morin
Marco Sozzi	Martino Nicolino	Michel Rocher
Marco Tasin	Massimo Balducci	Michel Thomas
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Marianne Mequignon	Massimo Pettavino	Michele Barbieri
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Marine Rutili	Maurizio Azzolini	Monique Eymard
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Norbert Jordan	Patrizia Moretti	Ralf Vanscheidt
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Ollivier Daeye	Philippe Christe	Reinhard Mangweth
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Oriana Brandolese	Philippe Maret	Rémi Maison
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Oswaldo Empereur	Philippe Piérini	Remo Giordano
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Ouvrard Etinne	Pier Ettore Gabrielli	Rémy Turpin
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Pablo Martínez	Piero Borre	Renato Gonnet
Paola Antonelli	Piero Chabod	Renato Guitti
Paola Casale	Piero Del Bondio	Renato Roganti
Paola Chiudinelli	Piero Lutzu	Res Flückiger
Paola Ricceri	Pierre Bernard	Reto Menzi
Paolo Biscontini	Pierre Boissier	Reto Strimer
Paolo Bracco	Pierre Ferry	Rey Denis
Paolo Faifer	Pierre Yves Oddone	Riccardo Del Togno
Paolo Laffranchi	Pierre-Guy Joandel	Riccardo Nardelli
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Pascal Gomes	Puech Marie-Pierre	Roberta Lemmi
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Pascal Pini	Rachele Della Putta	Roberto Bressanelli
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Roberto Ferrari	Serge Beuchat	Stéphane Lucas
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Roberto Lardelli	Sergio Fasano	Stéphane Mettaz
Roberto Maio	Séverine Haberer	Stéphane Pénochet
Roberto Maistri	Séverine Magnolon	Stéphane Thiébaud
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Rocco Leo	Silvano Togni	Susanne Bähler
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Romain Wunegffelen	Silvia Salomoni	Suzanne Houot
Romano Salis	Silvio Colaone	Sylvain Chapuis
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Rosanna Pedrini	Simon Jäger	Sylvie Genève
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Rosito Vaudan	Simone Minessi	Teresa Spanò
Rosmarie Schwarz	Simone Roveyaz	Théo Bonnet
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Roulaud Yves	Sophie Durant	Thierry Arzac
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Rudy Vallet	Sophie Roux	Thierry Schwab
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Salgado Hugo	Stefan Loitfellner	Thomas Bachofner
Salvatore Contarino	Stefan Rauch	Thomas Jucker
Samuel	Stefan Sprenger	Thomas Montesinos
Sandra Cuna	Stefania Capelli	Thomas Ruckli
Sandrine Barbe	Stefania Marazia	Thomas Sesrpari
Sara Canclini	Stefano Andretta	Thomas Wehrli
Sarah Burg	Stefano Barus	Tim Geiges
Sauvan Mélodie	Stefano Borney	Tiziana Odelli
Seb Dellepiane	Stefano Manini	Tiziano Quey
Sébastien Bossan	Stefano Marcolli	Tiziano Ruatti
Sébastien Sayer	Stefano Nicolodi	Toni Mingozi

Toni Reinstadler	Vincent Sarlin	Xavier Fribourg
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Ugo Parolini	Vittorio Saccoletto	Yoann Caillot
Ursina Wüst	Viviana Verthuy	Yoé Chetboun
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Vaslin Matthieu	William Guffroy	Yvonne Reisner
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Vincent Bridet	Wolfgang Grimm	
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