





BEARDED VULTURE · Gypaetus barbatus

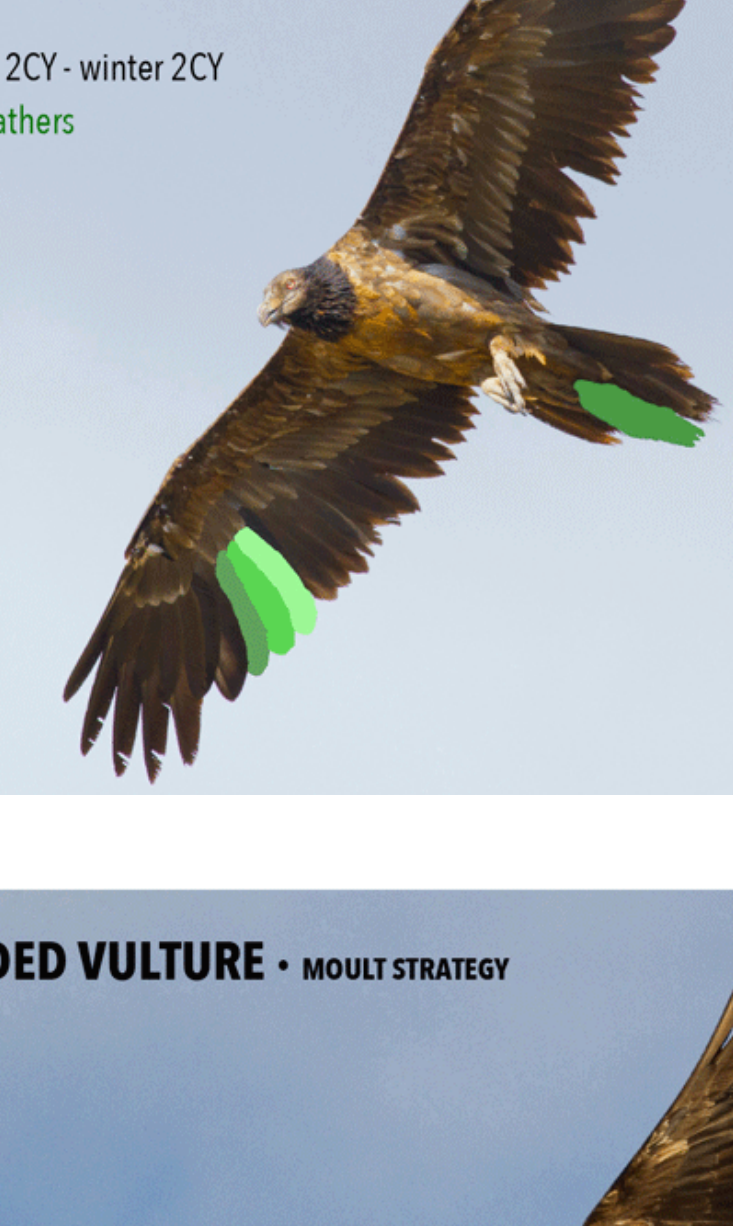
L: 100-115 cm. WS: 235-270cm. Wing:  725-885 mm.  715-910 mm. Weight:  4,700-6,500 g.  5,500-7,300 g. Longevity: < 30 years old.

Coordinators: Alex Ollé, Teresa Monrás & Joan Goy

BEARDED VULTURE · MOULT STRATEGY

Second plumage · spring 2CY · winter 2CY

· 1st and 2nd generation feathers



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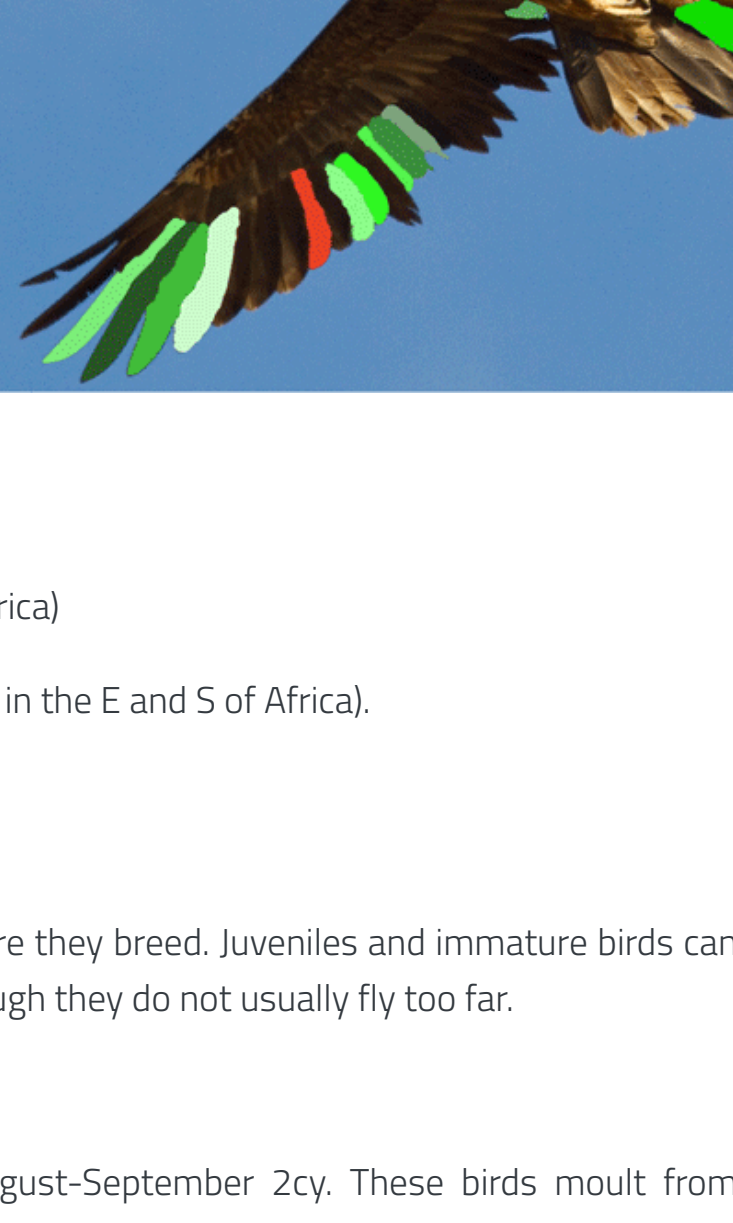
RAPTOR
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BEARDED VULTURE · MOULT STRATEGY

Third plumage · last 2nd winter · winter 3CY

· 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation feathers



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Taxonomy:

- *barbatus* (Eurasia and NO of Africa)
- *meridionalis* (Egypt and Arabia, in the E and S of Africa).

Status:

Basically, they are resident where they breed. Juveniles and immature birds can disperse beyond the mountain ranges where they have hatched, although they do not usually fly too far.

Moult:

Second plumage: march to August-September 2cy. These birds moult from 3 (in males) to 5 (in females) inner primaries P1-3/5; from none to maximum 2 outer secondaries S1-2; and up to 3 inner secondaries (S21-19 -no visible-).

Third plumage: february to September 3cy. They moult another 3 primaries, leaving from 2 to 4 outer primaries retained as juvenile feathers (P6-8/10). In a very asymmetric way, a variable number of secondaries will not be moulted and remain juvenile instead (recall, juvenile feathers are brown, pointy and longer). Approx. 70% of females and 40% of males will moult (again) P1. A 30% of females and less than 10% of males will also moult (again) P2. P1 and P2 will now be 3rd generation feathers.

Fourth plumage: from January to September 4cy. All females (with few exceptions) and around 80% of males moult the remaining juvenile outer primaries (20% of males will moult those during their 5cy), and proceed moulting another 3 inner primaries (up to P5 at the most). Some 4cy birds can still show juvenile secondaries, as only half of the individuals will moult them completely.

Fifth plumage: from January to October 5cy. Some of the males, the ones on delay, will moult P10 (still juvenile). Some females, the ones that are more ahead, carry on moulting their outer primaries up to P8. In general, all of them moult from 1 to 3 inner primaries which now will be of 4th generation. Except for a few males (approx. 5%), all the other ones will moult the remaining secondaries that are still juveniles.

Sixth plumage: at the end of the 6cy, the moult foci of the 3rd generation feathers is between P7 y P10; the moult foci of the 4th generation feathers between P2 and P5; and exceptionally, some female moult (again) P1, now of 5th generation.

Adult plumage: all 3rd generation remiges are now moulted. The females with a more advanced moult (approx. 15% of them) achieve the adult plumage at the end of their 6 cy. The rest of the females and 80% of the males, at the end of the 7cy. The remaining 20% of males, at the end of the 8cy. The moult amongst adult birds starts slightly later than the one in immature birds, usually from April to September. In colder months, from November to March, the moult is retained with no missing feathers (except in some odd cases). The adult plumage is complete renew roughly every third year.

Sexing:

Sexes cannot be identified in field. However, the females are slightly bigger; with a clear bent beak, convex at its center; and the beards shaped as a 'hand fan'. The males on the other hand, have a pretty flat beak (on its upper part) and the beard is grouped and towards the back as a brush.

Similar species:

Juveniles of Egyptian Vulture and Golden Eagle.

Bibliography:

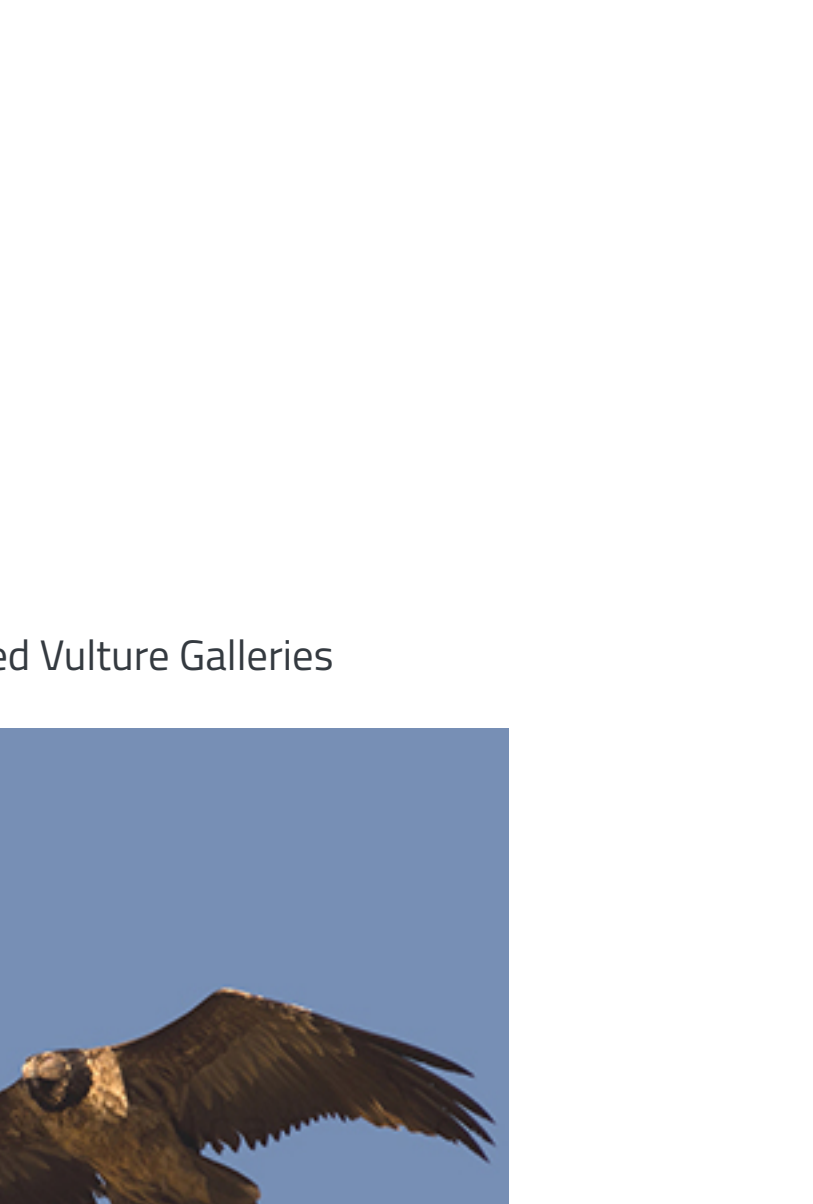
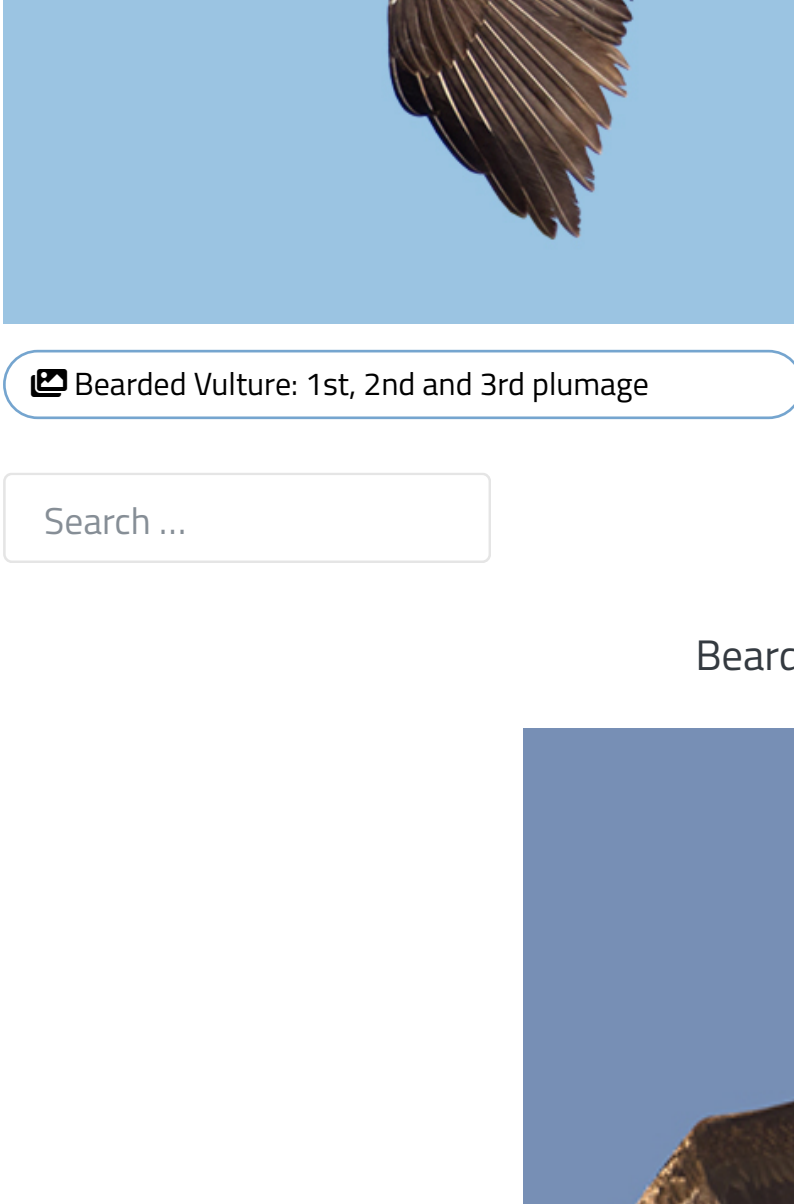
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 Bearded Vulture sounds

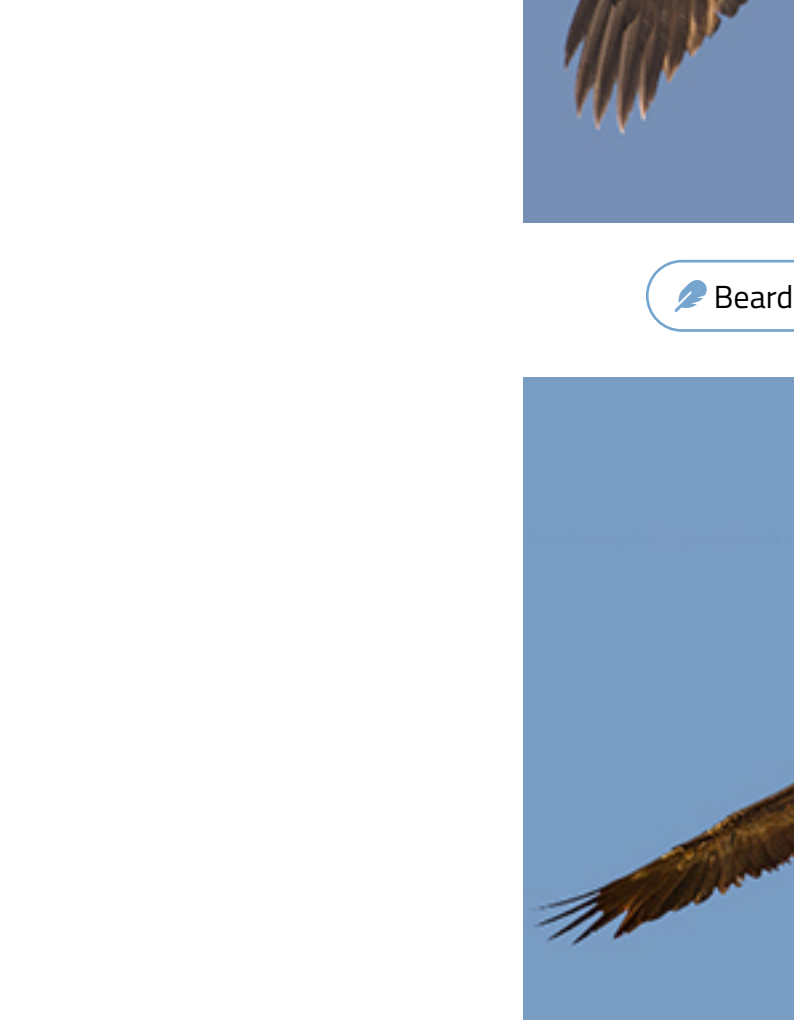
 Distribution


Bearded Vulture Collages











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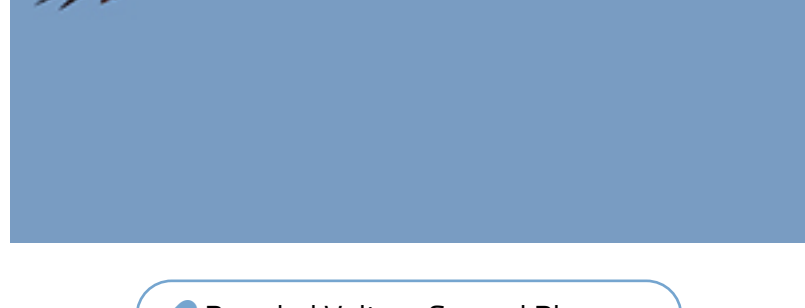
Bearded Vulture Galleries



Bearded Vulture Juvenile Plumage



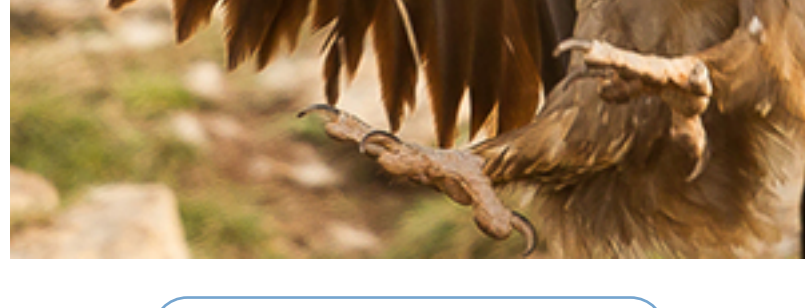
Bearded Vulture Second Plumage



Bearded Vulture Third Plumage



Bearded Vulture Fourth Plumage



Bearded Vulture Fifth Plumage

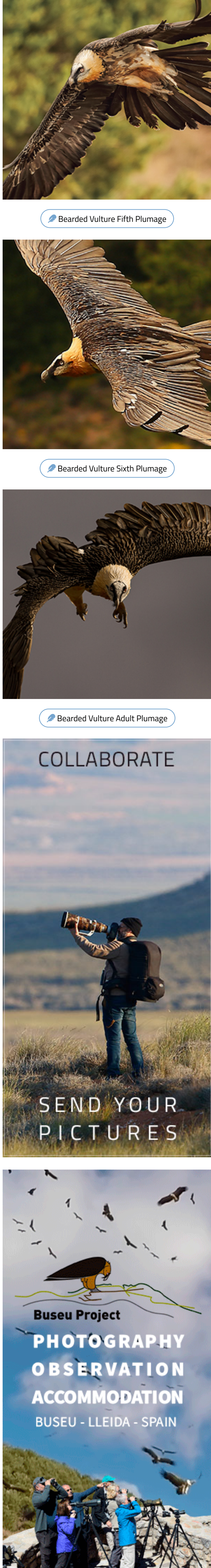


Bearded Vulture Sixth Plumage



Bearded Vulture Adult Plumage

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