

Bearded Vulture Movements in Portugal

A Baseline for Coordinated Conservation in Iberia

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CAPSULE

Bearded Vulture populations have been recovering across the Iberian Peninsula thanks to coordinated conservation efforts.

We report movement data from 32 Bearded Vultures, captive-bred and wild-born, from reintroduction projects in Spain (Cazorla, Castril, Gredos, and Maestrazgo), that visited Portugal between 2011 and 2026.

Our aim is to inform future transboundary conservation planning.

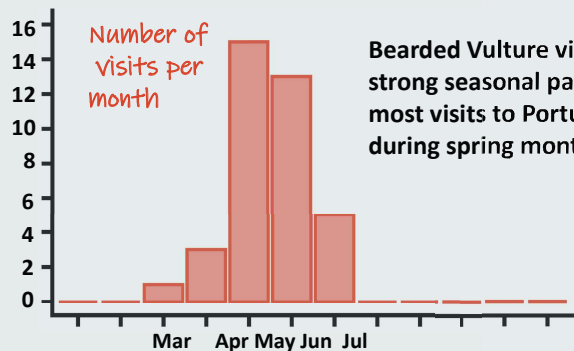
WIDESPREAD MOVEMENTS, NORTHERN STRONGHOLDS

Tracked birds ranged across Portugal, but clustered in the northern mountains of Serra da Estrela, Peneda-Gerês and Malcata.

Movements ranged from brief one-day visits to stays of 8 nights, with distances covered spanning 6 to 920 km.

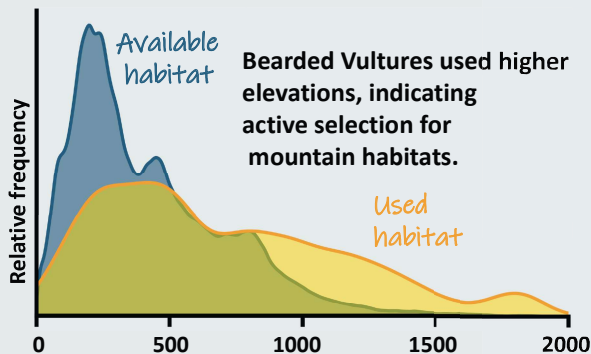
Of the 42 overnights, 57% occurred within Protected Areas.

SPRING IS THE PREFERRED SEASON



Bearded Vulture visits showed a strong seasonal pattern, with most visits to Portugal occurring during spring months.

MOUNTAINS ARE FAVOURED



INFORMING CONSERVATION

Our results provide the first synthesis of cross-border movements of Bearded Vultures in Iberia, highlighting areas in Portugal most used by dispersing individuals.

Targeted management – such as improving food availability and strengthening responses to key threats – could improve conditions, enhance population connectivity across Iberia, and facilitate the return of the Bearded Vulture to Portugal.

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:



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