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and environmental conditions. Monsoons provide tailwinds for migrating falcons in both directions, and the late breeding of the falcons allows them to breed in Magpie (*Pica pica*) nests, from which the young have already fledged.

From Breeding to Wintering Sites: Flocking Behaviour Allows Fledging Black Kites to Find Safe Flyway and Stop-over Sites

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The Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) is a widespread species in the Western Palearctic, despite population declines in different areas of its range. At the end of the breeding season European Black Kites migrate towards Africa concentrating at the two main bottlenecks of the Afro-Palearctic migratory system. Tens of thousand individuals are counted at the Strait of Gibraltar between Spain and Morocco and along the Eastern coast of the Black Sea. However, there are secondary flyways used by some 1000s of individuals, and including one important site that passes along the Mid-Mediterranean Flyway. This route, different from the main ones, implies a long sea-crossing between Italy and Tunisia. However, only data from visual counts are available from this Flyway. To fill this gap, we tracked Black Kites migrating through the Channel of Sicily. We equipped five juveniles born in central Italy with GPS-GSM, and we followed their movements from fledging until the end of their autumn migration. We combined this data with visual observations in Italy (at breeding sites and along the flyway) to assess the importance of flocking behaviour in the first months of their life. The results show that juveniles Black Kites tend to remain together with adults. In the first weeks after fledging they are still fed by adults and they made only limited movements. When starting the migratory flight, they follow adults moving south in small flocks. Once they reached Western Sicily Black Kites roosted together forming large flocks (up to 300 individuals) at a stop-over site. Then, they started together over the sea crossing between western Sicily and Tunisia, and used small islands of the Channel of Sicily to rest. Our results highlight the importance of flocking that allows juveniles to find safe migratory flyways and suitable stop-over sites.

Space Use and Movement Patterns of Egyptian Vultures Tracked from the Douro Valley, Spain-Portugal

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The Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) population in Europe has declined by 50-79% in the last 40 yrs and is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. As a migratory species the Egyptian Vulture faces multiple threats that vary in intensity across the breeding and wintering ranges and along the migration routes. The EU LIFE Rupis project aims to implement actions to strengthen the Egyptian Vulture population in the Douro Valley trans-border region of Spain and Portugal, a current stronghold for the species with 135 breeding pairs being present. Here we present the results from the first yr of GPS-tracking nine individuals (five breeding adults, one non-breeding adult, a sub-adult, and two juveniles) from the breeding grounds in the Douro Valley, across the Strait of Gibraltar migration bottleneck, to their winter ranges in the West African Sahel. Of the eight vultures that migrated to Africa in 2017 (one juvenile overwintered in Extremadura, Spain), one juvenile was assumed to have died in southern Morocco while the adults and the sub-adult took 12-16 ds to travel >3,200 km to their winter ranges. The five breeding adults traversed extensive winter ranges (mean \pm SE 95% kernel density contour = 20,036 \pm 6,064 km², n = 5) compared to their summer ranges (mean \pm SE 95% kernel density contour = 169 \pm 58 km², n = 5), favouring savannah-type habitat. Although two vultures regularly visited protected areas in southern Mali, the majority of the vultures spent the winter periods in overlapping core ranges in the insecure and unprotected cross-border regions between Mali, Senegal and Mauritania. These preliminary findings illustrate the vulnerability of Egyptian Vultures along their migration route and in their winter ranges, and support calls for a “flyway approach” to Egyptian Vulture conservation in Western Europe and Africa.