

Egyptian vulture

The Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) has a body length of 55 to 65 cm, and a wingspan of 155 to 170 cm. Adults of the Egyptian vulture are white with black flight feathers, while the plumage of the juveniles is dark brown. The yellow to orange face makes this bird easily recognizable. Egyptian vultures are one of the few intelligent bird species known to use tools, such as using smooth stones to break the eggs that they eat. They have also been observed using sticks to gather and roll wool, which they then use as a lining in their nests.

The only remaining nesting vulture in Albania is the Egyptian vulture. The main threat that has caused the population decline of the species is



Egyptian vulture © S. Spasov



poisoning. As carrion-feeding birds, vultures can easily fall prey to poison baits, a very common practice in rural areas of Albania.

The Egyptian vulture population in Albania has declined to 6 breeding pairs. Its population in the entire Balkan does not exceed 50 breeding pairs.

The Egyptian vulture travels more than 5,000 km from Africa to its breeding grounds, such as the Balkan Peninsula or other areas in Europe. The journey of the Egyptian vulture is full of vicissitudes, and that is why it is considered 'a flight for survival'.



White stork

The White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), a long-distance migrant, travels yearly about 20,000 km to the breeding grounds and back, facing a number of threats, which cause their population to decline year by year. It winters in the African continent and nests in Albania.

The population of this species in Albania counts about 10 breeding pairs, located in the south of the country along the Drino Valley and the Delvina area. The lack of nesting sites, electrocution, and collision with power lines are some of the factors that threaten the white stork population, making it a critically endangered species (CR) in Albania.



Status of the Egyptian vulture globally



Status of the White stork in Albania

Flight for survival

Flight for Survival is a campaign initiated by BirdLife International to raise public awareness of the dangers faced by birds during their annual migration from breeding to wintering grounds and back. The focus of the Flight for Survival campaign in Albania is on 9 species of migratory birds, among which we can mention the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and the White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

About 206,000 - 325,000 birds are killed or caught every year in Albania, ranking our country in the 10 most dangerous countries in the Mediterranean for illegal killing of birds.



Over the years, PPNEA and other national and international organizations have been working to protect the Egyptian vulture and the White stork by increasing public awareness and implementing direct conservation actions. Some of these conservation measures include the installation of nesting platforms for the white stork, which increase the species breeding habitats and chances of survival of its population, as well as the establishment of two feeding stations close to the Egyptian vulture's territories with the aim of reducing the risk of poisoning.

Learn more about the survival flight of these species by visiting the site flightforsurvival.org

Scan here to join the Egyptian vulture and the White Stork conservation effort.



FLIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

Egyptian Vulture
and the White Stork



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