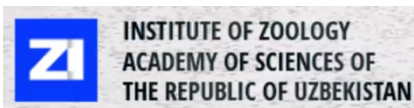


Migration routes of Egyptian Vulture on the central Asian-Indian flyway

Fieldwork Report for Oriental Bird Club
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Summary

The field team consisting of Anna Ten, Valentin Soldatov and Vladimir Dobrev undertook fieldwork in Uzbekistan between 26th July 2021 – 6th August 2021 (RJB could not attend for family reasons). They drove from Tashkent to the Kyzylkum Desert and visited three areas: Bukantau Mountains and Arystantau in Navoiy; and Ayakagytma in Bukhara.

The team were able to locate eight Egyptian Vulture nests and one Cinereous Vulture nest. Two of the Egyptian Vulture nests were accessible by foot and one by rope and ladder. Others were not safely accessible. Five of the eight nests had chicks present with either one or two chicks, two nests had no chicks most likely having been predated and one nest was not possible to see inside due to inaccessibility.

We had four GSM transmitters available and were able to tag four chicks in three different nests. Two chicks from two nests in Arystantau and two chicks from one nest in Bukantau. The four birds were named: Arys, Anya, Timur and Bukhara.

Early results are good. Arys and Anya were tagged in areas with GSM coverage so we have been watching them and seeing some interesting movements already (Map 1). While Timur and Bukhara were slightly younger birds and in an area with no GSM coverage, so we are still waiting for data from them which we expect to start in the next few weeks.

Map 1. An early movement by Arys from Arystantau south and east to the Uzbek/Afghan border during the 20th – 25th August 2021.



Photos from the field



Photo 1. Valentin looking down towards an Egyptian Vulture nest in Bukantau where two chicks were tagged.



Photo 2. Timur and Bukhara, chicks tagged in the nest from Photo 1.



Photo 3. Valentin holding Arys after being tagged and before placing the bird back in the nest.



Photos 3 and 4. Field team camping and in the field. From left to right: Vladimir Dobrev, Anna Ten, Valentin Soldatov (and Miri, the daughter of Valentin and Anna on Valentin's shoulders).