

The Red Kite (*Milvus Milvus*) is a real European, who inhabits exclusively our continent. In summer he stays in the North-Eastern parts in his breeding grounds, meanwhile in winter he lives in his wintering grounds in South-Western Europe.

In all parts, breeding grounds, migration routes and wintering grounds he frequents rangeland for getting fed. While he is scavenger as well as depredating little mammals or insectivores he benefits from well grazed rangelands.

A EU-Hygiene-Directive has results in the closure of boneyards all Southern Europe, where was compiled carrion oft he village as well as of all landfills of organic waste. That disadvantaged raptors like the Red Kite and similar like the Eurasian griffon.



The EU-Directive of Avian Protection includes the Red Kites (addendum 1.), and it obliges to set up Areas of Nature-Protection referring to all species in danger of extinction (Art. 4.1). The elected territories of protection have to be adapted in type of landscape, vegetative ecotype and number of territories.

Moreover for regular migrating birds there have to be allocated adapted sites for reproduction, moult, hibernation and adapted resting areas on the migration routes (Art. 4.2).

the Red Kite – a real European



Impressum

This flyer has been published within the TRUNPA-Project (Transhumant Rangeland Use and Networking of Protected Areas) by

“Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte für Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz und Saarland”

Frankfurt 2009



Dispersion

The Red Kite inhabits our planet with about 19.000 – 25.000 couples living mostly in Europe between Poland, Germany, France and Spain and dispersed in the western Mediterranean and in South-East Europe.



In Germany are incubating about 10.000 until 14.000 couples presenting over 50% of all. Thus Germany has a global charge in

the preservation of this bird species.

Their habitats of hibernation mostly are in Spain. Recently the number of individuals has been counted. For the last 10 years a decline from 60.000 to 35.000 was noted being caused by an illegal toxic depredator control, the vanishing of the boneyards and the illegal hunting on their migration route.



Birds Living

End of march the females begin to lay in general 2 or 3 eggs. After 5 weeks the fledglings are hatching out, and mid of Jule they finally are fledged.

The Kite is scavenger and predator of little animals. By a low search-flight he controls open rangelands for hours. Thus he prefers mostly grazed sites, and this especially in spring when he catches earthworms by foot.



In september or october they unify themselves to flocks and start the migration to south west Europe. They will return to the breeding sites on the following february or march.

Habitat

The species nests in trees mostly beeches, oaks or pines , often close to other kites. They prefer open forests and generally the nests are in the top of the trees.



The Kite's foraging grounds are manifold structured like open landscapes with meadows and pastures. In the hibernation sites of Spain they prefer open agricultural landscape like in Castile or the Dehesa-rangelands of Extremadura. There fledglings



are favored by a practiced abstinence on tree-cut of nested cork trees.