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NEWSLETTER

September 2021

LIFE EUROKITE

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“The international approach of the LIFE EUROKITE project is crucial to the conservation of the Red kite. The successful reintroduction of the species in Southern Tuscany within the Save the Flyers LIFE project has just been the result of a cooperation among Italian, Swiss and French ornithologists and organisations. The CERM Association continues working towards the goal of supporting the Red kite wintering population and it cooperates with LIFE EUROKITE so that the main causes of mortality of the tagged birds can be ascertained. This will help identify and tackle the most important threats affecting the species in Italy.”

**Guido Ceccolini, Ornithologist, President of CERM
Centro Rapaci Minacciati ONLUS - Italy**



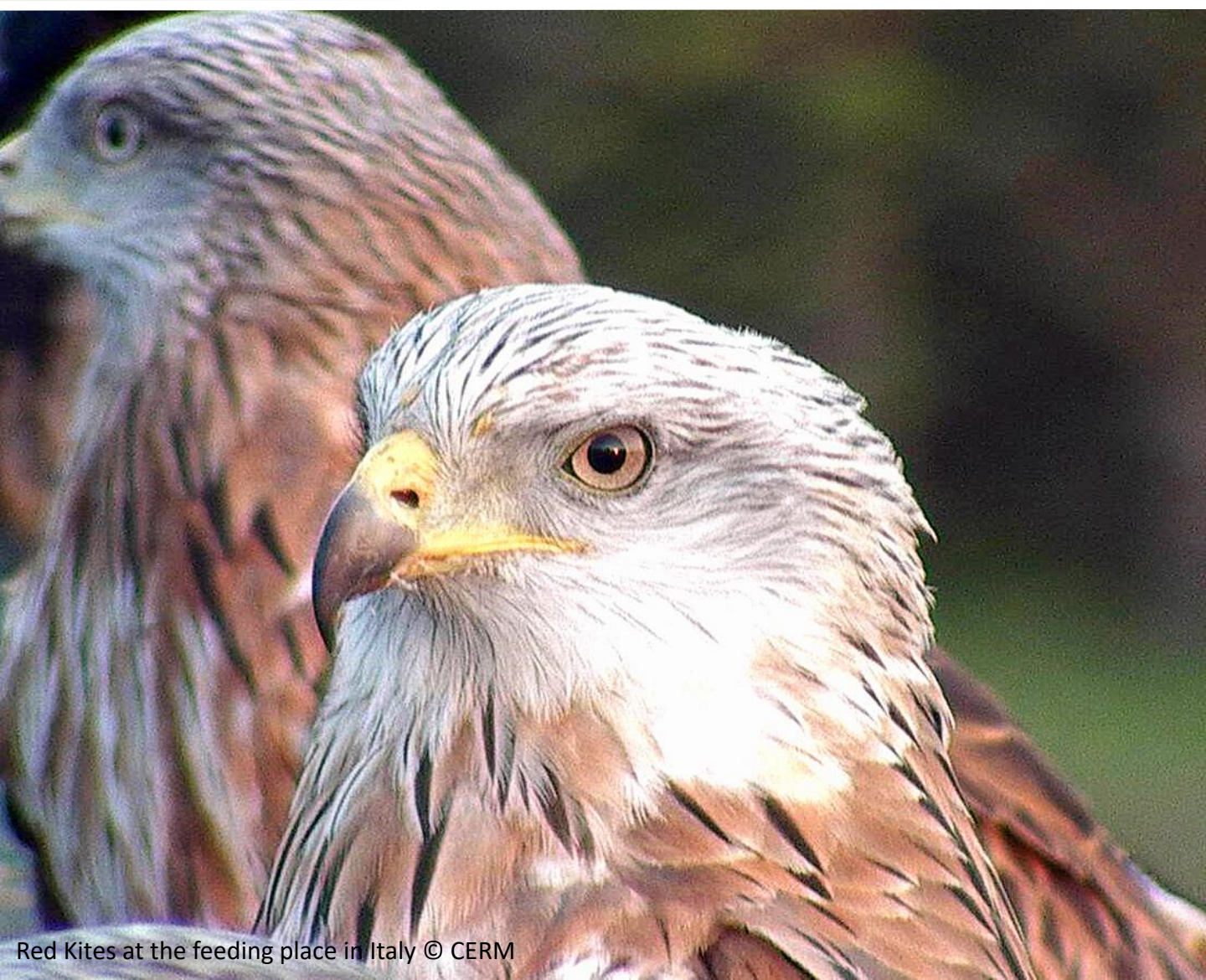
Guido Ceccolini with
an Egyptian vulture



New Live Webcam in Italy

This webcam is part of one of the three cameras available in the LIFE EUROKITE project within its actions for public awareness and dissemination of results. The action has been carried out thanks to the support of CERM and the financial support of the Austrian Power Grid (APG). The CERM Endangered Raptors Centre is located in Southern Tuscany (Italy) and managed by the CERM Association. The CERM was the core area of a Red kite reintroduction programme which was carried out in the framework of the LIFE Save the Flyers project between 2007 and 2014, based on the translocation of 105 young red kites from two donor countries (Corsica, France and Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland).

The programme was successful and led to the establishment of a self-sustaining Red kite population, which now is expanding in the surrounding areas.





Red Kites (partly with wing tags) at the feeding place in Italy © CERM

The feeding place

The feeding platform located at the CERM is daily supplied with food. It played a very important role in the Red kite reintroduction programme both for supporting the released young red kites and for favouring the breeding success of the new pairs. Furthermore, it was very useful to monitor the new population. The platform is supplied with food a few hours before sunset around 5pm - 7pm in summer and around 3pm - 5pm in winter.

Species that you can see

The feeding place is mainly used by Red kite, Black kite and Buzzard. Sometimes can be spotted also Yellow legged Gull and Grey heron. In Spring and Summer about 60-70 individuals can be spotted in the area while in winter up to 120 red kites can be sighted, some dozens of them coming from central Europe and wintering here.

CERM is located in an hilly area of Southern Tuscany with a sea view characterised by woods, pastures and cultivated fields. At the CERM a captive breeding programme for the Egyptian vulture has also been ongoing since 2006, aiming at the reintroduction into the wild of captive-born young vultures (currently within the LIFE Egyptian vulture project).

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/live-webcams/webcam-cerm-italy.html>

Bird migration started!

Not only white storks, cranes and Common swift, but also most of the Central European red kites fly to their wintering areas in autumn. Some individuals fly long distances (sometimes more than 1000 kilometres) to the south, for example to France, Spain and Portugal to reach their wintering areas. Others, however, spend the winter in their homeland.

We are excited to see where the tagged birds with transmitters from the LIFE EUROKITE project will fly to. Some are already on their way and can be observed at <https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/1-family.html>





Visit us on

www.life-eurokite.eu



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Coordinating Beneficiary



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Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



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Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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