**Migration ecology of Booted eagles**

The Booted eagle *Aquila pennata* is a medium-sized, migratory raptor with a Palearctic and marginally Indomalayan distribution. European populations are concentrated in the Iberian peninsula, southern France and the Balkans. Spain holds the largest European population of circa 3000 pairs, with highest densities in the central-western sector of the peninsula. The general trend of the overall Iberian population seems to be stable or increasing. Apart from some individuals that winter in the Iberian pensinsula, Spanish Booted eagles are mainly migratory and mostly winter in the Sahel region after a migratory journey of more than 2500 km.

In Doñana National Park, the Booted eagle is the second most abundant raptor after the Black kite *Milvus migrans* and its population has been increasing steadily in the protected area over the past decades, a trend that seems to continue. While the population has been intensively monitored in recent years, its migratory behaviour remains poorly known.

In this project, we will deploy satellite-GPS tags to study the migratory performance of Booted eagles. In particular, we will focus on fledglings that face their first migration attempt. These pose interesting questions about the navigation capabilities of birds, as they are thought to embark on their migratory journey without being accompanied by any of their parents. Thus, they may be more exposed to the effects of environmental factors, such as weather conditions and wind drift, than older, more experienced individuals.

*Project Team:*

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