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| Common Name: Cinereous Vulture | Scientific Name: <i>Aegypius monachus</i> |
| Class: Aves Order: Falconiformes Family: Cathartidae | Feeding Type: Carnivore Statistics: Height: 3 ft Wingspan: 8-9.5 ft Weight: 18 lbs |

DESCRIPTION: The female cinereous vulture is slightly larger and heavier than the male. This vulture has a broad head covered in black or brown down feathers. It has brown eyes, a black beak, and a black crop-patch. Plumage is either black or dark brown. Its legs are either a blue-grey or a whitish-yellow; however, when the animal is immature the legs and beak are pink.

RANGE: Southern Europe to Mongolia.

HABITAT: It prefers mountainous habitat at elevations up to 23,000 feet.

ADAPTATIONS: It is usually solitary, but has been seen in small groups. Cinereous vultures soar as the morning sun warms the air, using long, broad wings to catch these thermals to get lift as it soars. It will usually soar for most of the day until landing to roost.

Cinereous vultures will typically eat alone, using a large beak to tear apart tough material. The upper part of the beak is curved with a sharp point to aid in tearing. If it is not the first one to a meal, it will use its large size to advantage in chasing off other vultures in the area.

REPRODUCTION/GROWTH: Cinereous vultures make arboreal nests out of tree branches and grasses, usually lining them with any kind of available garbage. Nests are added to each year. Usually one egg is laid, but it is not unheard of for two eggs to be laid. Eggs are incubated for 50 to 55 days. Young are semi-altricial.

LONGEVITY: 20 years

PREY/PREDATOR: Prey to humans
Predator of an occasional small mammal

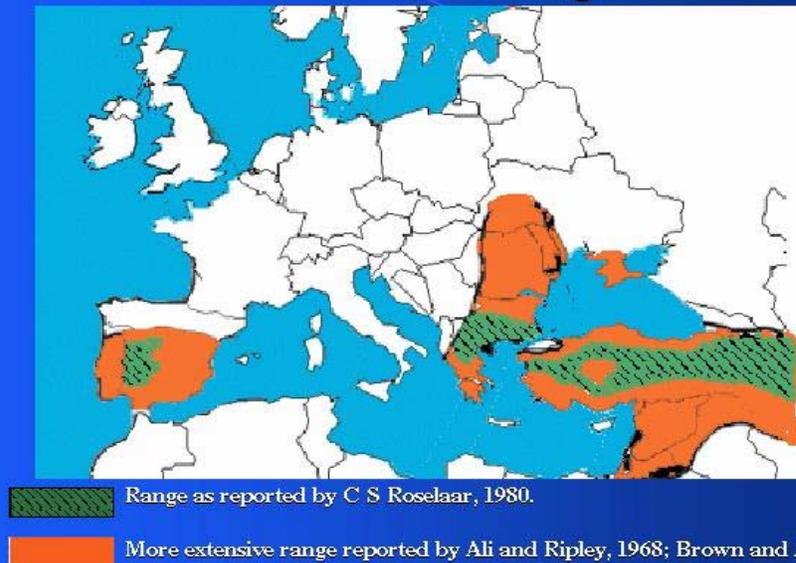
DIET: WILD: Carrion and small mammals
SZ: Bird of prey diet and rats

STATUS: They are threatened, with an estimated wild population of less than 4,000. International trade of this species is being controlled. Their survival is threatened by farmers, who view cinereous vultures as pests, and continue to hunt and poison them even though it is illegal.

SPECIAL NOTES: Vultures, in general, are quiet birds. The cinereous vulture is no exception. It will only make an occasional hiss or croak when at a carcass.



Cinereous Vulture's Range in Europe



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