

## **Volunteers manage to increase rabbits population to preserve the imperial eagle**

LOCATION: Andújar (Jaén)

DURATION: 1:24

**SUMMARY:** A group of Andalusian volunteers meets every year in Andújar's Sierra to take care of the Iberian imperial eagle. They prepare the mount so rabbits can reproduce easily and these birds in danger of extinction don't suffer from lack of food. The recovery of this mammal is crucial for the survival of this species as it constitutes an 80% in their diet. The work of these volunteers has made possible that in just two years the number of rabbits in this area has been multiplied by three.

### **VTR:**

Recording these images is not easy. The Iberian imperial eagle is the most threatened bird of prey in Europe, and despite efforts, it keeps in danger of extinction. But the key to recover this species may be in other animal, the rabbit.

**SARA CABEZAS**  
Coordinator of the program

*"More than 80% of their diet is constituted by rabbit, so it is crucial for the recovery of this species."*

**MIGUEL GARCÍA**  
Volunteer

*"The higher amount of food the predator has, the higher will be the number of eagles."*

That's why Andalusian volunteers are taking care of its environment, at the Natural Park of Andújar's Sierra, so these endangered birds don't miss food. In just two years...

**SARA CABEZAS**  
Coordinator of the program

*"We have multiplied almost by ten the number we had."*

**JUAN MANUEL MIGUEL**  
Monitor

*"And the eagle, instead of having one or two chicks, can have three chicks in each nest."*

This is the 'Taking Flight' initiative, coordinated each year by the Seo Birdlife organization. Their volunteers weed or construct shelters for rabbits...to maintain the data of the last decade, optimistic numbers that indicate that the population of Iberian imperial eagle has risen an 8%.

**SARA CABEZAS**  
Coordinator of the program

*"We have experienced a big growth and today we count on 350 breeding pairs in Spain."*

A natural legacy, exclusive in the Iberian peninsula, that deserves to be fought for.

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