



THE OSPREY FOUNDATION
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NOTIFICATION

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CARCASS OF PETE AND SATELLITE TRANSMITTER FOUND IN MOROCCO

1. SEARCH FOR PETE

Satellite Osprey Pete began his spring migration back to Finland from Senegal on 30th March 2008. His journey home lasted only about a week. Pete's flight was traced to progress over Mauritania and Western Sahara to Morocco, where the transmitter started to malfunction and eventually stopped sending any kind of information. The latest valid location signal came on 7th April 2008 from the Draa river in Morocco at point P48. When no further location information was received, it was thought that Pete had perished. One possibility was also that Pete's transmitter might have dropped off, in which case the bird could have still arrived to Finland. However, there was no sign of Pete in Finland either. This motivated the Osprey Foundation to start tracking Pete's carcass and the transmitter in Morocco. The latest location seemed fairly reachable according to Google Earth (<http://www.fmnh.helsinki.fi/info/maps/pete2008kevat/kml.php>).

The Osprey Foundation (Arto Kalliola) asked via BirdLife Finland (Aki Arkiomaa, Mika Asikainen) for help from the international BirdLife organization in Spain and Morocco. In late June 2008, with the help of BirdLife Finland's director Mika Asikainen, a contact was established with Nacho Aransay from Spain's SEO / BirdLife. He managed to get ornithologist Eric Le Nuz from Missouri, Morocco, involved in the search for Pete. In the end, Eric found the people to conduct the search in practice, including the Moroccan Rachid KHAI - ECWP.

Arto Kalliola from the Osprey Foundation put up a website for the Moroccan searchers (<http://www.viidakkoradio.com/pete/>) and sent Eric Le Nuz the exact coordinates (given by professor Pertti Saurola) of the last location as well as photos of Pete and the satellite transmitter.

2. PETE WAS FOUND!

The BirdLife community demonstrated its strength once again: The Moroccan Rachid KHAI-ECWP along with partners found Pete's carcass and the transmitter on 23rd July 2008 at the exact spot P48.

Spain's SEO / BirdLife gave a press release on 31st July on the discovery of Pete's carcass (http://www.seo.org/sala_detalle.cfm?idSala=2890&CFID=31626466). The English version (Google translation) can be found at http://translate.google.fi/translate?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.seo.org%2F sala_detalle.cfm%3FidSala%3D2890%26CFID%3D31626466&hl=fi&ie=UTF8&sl=es&tl=en.

Pete's carcass was quite limited, as his body had rested in the burning heat for almost four months. In addition, some other predator (perhaps fox) had gnawed his body so that only a few feathers remained left. Photos from the spot are attached.

After Pete's discovery Eric Le Nuz speculated that Pete's death might have been caused by a disease or alternatively by the attack of an eagle (e.g. Bonelli's eagle, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*). According to Eric, Bonelli's eagle can sometimes behave very aggressively towards other raptors in Morocco.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to resolve the exact cause for Pete's death.

Photos from the area where Pete's carcass was found
(Photos: Rachid KHAI - ECWP, July 2008)



1: Landscape near the spot of Pete's discovery



2 :Landscape near the spot of Pete's discovery



3: Pete's carcass



4: Feather and the transmitter



5: Feather and the transmitter