



European Raptor  
Biomonitoring Facility



# Working Group 3 (Collections Arena) – Introduction

## WG3 virtual meeting, 11 February 2021

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# Objectives

- To develop a **framework for a distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank (ERSpeB)** for contaminant monitoring.
- To **build capacity** in the ‘collections arena’ through networking and collaboration among ecotoxicologists and curators (NHMs, ESBs, etc), including through:
  - **constructing a *meta-database*** of existing raptor specimens and of any existing related contaminant data, and **stimulating digitisation** of collections, to enhance access and use for contaminant monitoring;
  - **stimulating expansion** of raptor collections.



# What is the distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank?

A collaboration among NHMs, ESBs and research collections across Europe which:

- **receives specimens** from the European Raptor Sampling Programme at collaborating collections across Europe
- **stores, suitable, frozen raptor carcasses/samples** at collaborating collections across Europe, as required by the European Raptor Biomonitoring Scheme
- **coordinates a centralised European Raptor Specimen Database** which provides data on, and facilitates access to, frozen raptor specimens and tissue samples in the freezers of collaborating collections' across Europe
- **provides samples** as and when needed to the European Raptor Biomonitoring Scheme
- **promotes appropriate standards and procedures** across collections to ensure specimens/samples are fit for purpose



# Work done to date

## Missions

- Review of raptor collections, Oct 2018
- Addressing constraints to international shipping of raptor carcasses, Mar-Apr 2019
- Scoping the European Raptor Specimen Database, Nov-Dec 2019
- Standards and protocols for gathering, storing and processing raptor specimens for contaminant monitoring, Jan-Feb 2021

## WG3 meetings and sessions

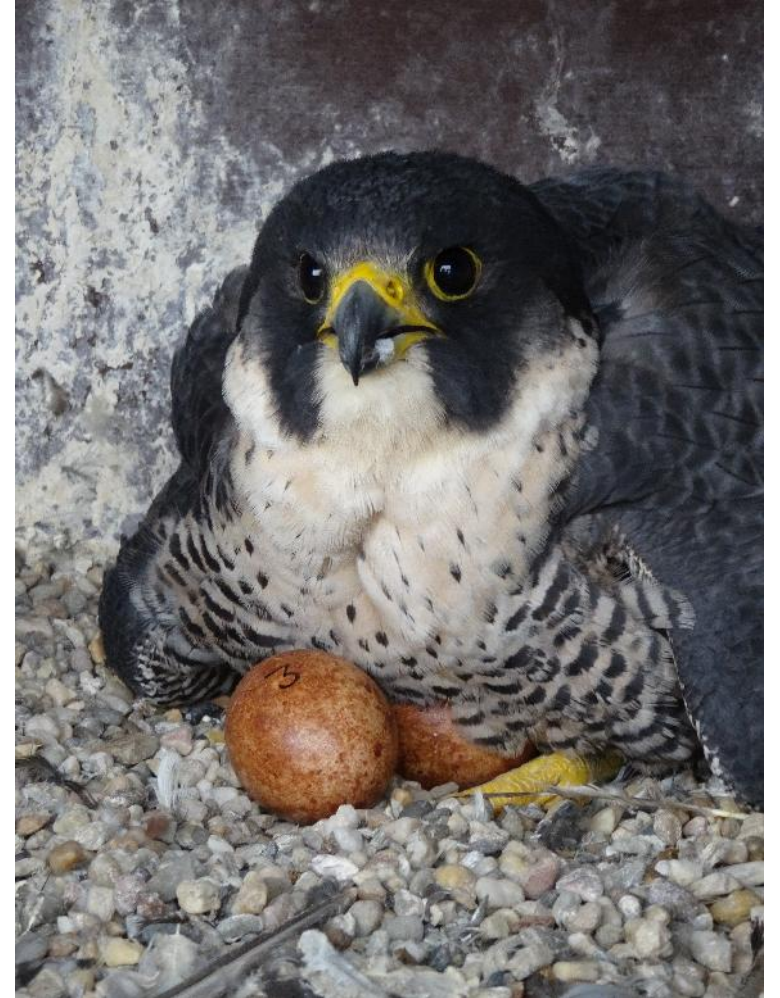
- Ciudad Real WG3 session (GM1), Feb 2018
- Brussels WG3 meeting, Dec 2018
- Florence WG3 session (GM2), Mar 2019
- Porto WG3 (GM3) session, Feb 2020
- Virtual WG3 meeting, Feb 2021 – this meeting



## Next steps – drafting a framework for the ERSpeB

The framework document will bring together work done and specify:

- **the network of collections** engaged in development of the European Raptor Specimen Bank, ongoing networking arrangements
- **the interface with the European Raptor Biomonitoring Scheme**, including priority species/sex/age to retain in collections' freezers
- **the interface with the European Raptor Sampling Programme**, including alignment of field gathering of carcasses with the storage capacities of collections



## Drafting a framework for the ERSpeB (cont.)

- **standards and protocols** for the receipt, processing and storage of specimens/samples
- **the structure and data flow for the European Raptor Specimen Database** and links to other related databases
- **arrangements for analytical labs to access ERSpeB specimens/samples** for contaminant monitoring, including guidance on shipping of samples from collections to labs
- **an action plan** to further develop the ERSpeB, including measures to address resource constraints



**Thank you!**

