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For the fifth time since the 1990s ornithologists from several European countries met to deal with the two *Pyrrhocorax* species, Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* and Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. The conference had been prepared by Dr Guillermo Blanco and was chaired by Dr Milà Borja of Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC, Madrid / Spain).

55 participants from seven countries took part: 28 from Spain, eleven from England, six from Portugal, two from Germany and two from Switzerland, and one from France. Over two days, the programme offered 30 short presentations, two inspections of Segovia's historic city centre with focus on breeding sites, resting sites and sleeping sites of the Red-billed Chough, as well as four panel discussions. Substantial native dinners ended the first two days, which had been intensively filled.

The last day led the participants to the nature reserve *Hoces del Duratón*, a ravine inhabited by Red-billed Choughs and Griffon Vultures.

The topics of the working groups (WG) dealt primarily with the protection and conservation of the populations of the Red-billed Chough in Segovia (WG1), in Spain (WG2), and in Europe (WG3). Three of the 30 presentations were about the Alpine Chough, 27 about the Red-billed Chough. English summaries can be found under "Abstracts" below.

The project "Alpenkrähe in den Ostalpen [Alpine Chough in the Eastern Alps]" was presented by Monticola member of the board Johannes Denkinger and vice director of Nuremberg zoo Dr Helmut Mägdefrau, who gave a presentation on "Can Red-billed Choughs come back to the Eastern Alps?" on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

In this context one also needs to point to the presentations of Elizabeth Corry, "The Return of Red-billed Choughs to Jersey: Lessons Learnt" (Abstracts p 10), of Claire Mucklow, "The Natural Recolonisation of Cornwall, England, by Red-billed Choughs" (Abstracts p 9), and of Jane Hodges and Bob Haycock, "Choughs in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales, UK" (Abstracts pp 9-10).

David Jardin, Argyll / Scotland, who chaired WG3, summarized the results of the discussions on the protection of the Red-billed Chough in Europe. Dr Helmut Mägdefrau and Johannes Denkinger argued for providing the NGO "Chough Conservation Group" with solid structures to make international co-operation easier. Monticola with its journal and homepage could be used for Red-billed-Chough-connected issues.

In its role as a forum for European exchange, the Segovia conference on the Red-billed Chough was a complete success. The next conference will be held in Italy.