**Introduction**

The Eastern Imperial Eagle is a rare species. To our knowledge the migration of adult birds has never been studied by satellite telemetry.

**Method**

Four adult males, two adult females and two immature Imperial Eagles were trapped near Taif in Saudi Arabia while wintering using the method described by Ostrowski et al. (2001). They were fitted with satellite transmitters (PTTs) from which we obtained only Doppler fixes in all but one case. We fitted a GPS tag to the last bird trapped. Three of these eagles were trapped up to three times. For more general information on satellite tracking of raptors see Meyburg & Fuller (2007).

**Results**

Six eagles were tracked to their summer home ranges (see map) and in most cases back again to Arabia. Four birds migrated to Russia in spring, one to Kazakhstan and one to China. The distances between the summer home ranges and the wintering areas ranged between 3,900 and 5,000 km. At least two birds were shot on the Arabian Peninsula. A four-year-old female with PTT 23671 still in immature plumage, was much heavier than any previously known individual of this species. Its home range in the summer was in Xinjiang Province in north-western China close to the borders with Mongolia and Kazakhstan. It had the longest migration route of all the eagles tracked, over 5,000 km, and in the most east-westerly direction. After its second tracked wintering in Arabia it again took the same route towards China, but contact was lost shortly before it was presumed to have arrived there for the second time. One male, caught in March, was found breeding in Bashkiriya (Russia) at 55°57’N west of the Ural Mountains at the northernmost perimeter of the known breeding range in Europe Russian. The bird was caught a second time in the wintering area in November wearing the transmitter which was still functioning. In January two years later it was caught for the third time, but the PTT had been lost or removed.

**Information on some of the eagles tracked**

**Ad. male 21819:** Trapped 3 times, tracking period 4.3.94 - 17.8.95, without PTT when trapped for the last time on 31.1.96. Its nest was found in Bashkiriya (Russia, 55°57’/ 56°2’E) with two nestlings. Distance between summer and winter ranges 4,200 km.

**Four-year-old female 23671:** Weight 4,800 g (!), tracking period 9.3.95-17.3.96. Distance between summer and winter ranges over 5,000 km (see map, second return migration to area of summer range not shown).

**Ad. male 26047:** From Kazakhstan. Weight 4,600 g, tracking period 5.4.95-23.9.95. It relocated to a new home range in Bashkiriya (47°36’ N/ 67°55’ E). Shot in Kuwait one month after last fix.

**Ad. female 23883:** Trapped three times: 6.2.98, 23.1.00 and 31.1.01. Tracking period: 3.2.01-8.9.02. Nest found (55°54’ N/ 54°25’E) 163 km NW of Ufa (Russia). Distance between summer and winter ranges 4,120 km.

**Ad. male 21820:** Was already in full adult plumage when trapped for the first time on 20.12.92. Tracking period 8.3-28.12.1994. The bird did not breed in the summer of 1994, but ranged over approx. 2,000 km² in Russia some 250 km WNW of Ufa.

**Ad. male 39587:** This bird was tracked with a GPS enhanced transmitter from 23.11.2003 until 17.2.2004 which made it possible to study its wintering behaviour in great detail. Its home range was 5,900 km² in area with a diameter of up to 127 km. It was most often on the wing between 15.00 and 17.00 hrs (local time). It removed the GPS tag, which was found on the ground, while still in the wintering area.

**References**
