

Colony of rare bald ibis found

A colony of northern bald ibis, one of the world's rarest birds thought to have become extinct in the Middle East, has been discovered in a desert area of central Syria.

The colony, found in the Al Badia area, contains three pairs, incubating eggs and a seventh adult, according to *Birdlife*

International. The northern bald ibis was formerly widespread across the Mediterranean but the world population was thought to be only 220 individuals in two colonies in north-west Morocco.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature classified it as critically endangered.