



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

April 2021

BirdLife's bi-monthly newsletter - keeping you up to date with what's happening in the fight against the illegal killing of wild birds and other forms of bird persecution in the African-Eurasian Flyway. Send us your feedback via wildlifecrime@birdlife.org

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Featured news



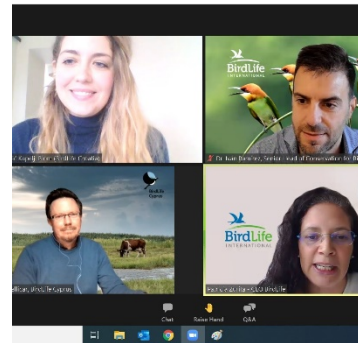
REGISTER NOW - Public webinar on the Illegal Killing of Birds

BirdLife International will organise a second webinar on the ongoing IKB work of BirdLife partners around the world - this time showcasing successful conservation approaches from three continents, with case-studies from Guyana, Hong-Kong and Malta. Join us on the 15th April, at 13h30 BST/GMT+1. [Register here!](#)

Events and campaigns

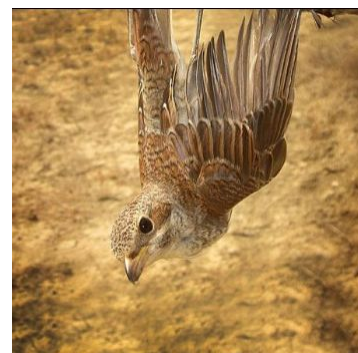
World Wetland Day Webinar on the Illegal Killing of Birds in wetland habitats

BirdLife International has held the first of two webinars aimed at increasing public awareness of the threat of illegal killing to wild birds. The first webinar focused on the illegal shooting, trapping and poisoning of birds on wetlands (specifically the Paralimni Lake in Cyprus and the Neretva Delta in Croatia) and took place on the 23rd March for World Wetland Day. If you missed it, you can now watch the recording on our [YouTube channel](#).



National Action Plan Workshop recording is available

BirdLife Cyprus, BirdLife International and EuroNatur jointly organized a successful workshop on National Action Plans against the illegal killing of birds on 8-9 March 2021. We are proud to say that 83 participants from 31 countries took part in the online event. Video recordings of the presentations of the 1st day and the reporting back after the breakout group sessions of the 2nd day of the workshop are available on these links: [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).





Environmental Crime Conference - 21st May 2021

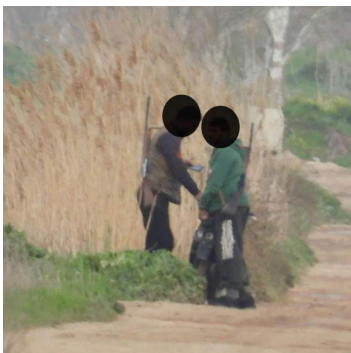
The main European networks in the enforcement chain [ENPE](#), [EUFJE](#), [EnviCrimeNet](#) and [IMPEL](#) will jointly organise their next "4 Networks Conference" online. This event focuses on how to strengthen the enforcement chain, what is being done and what should be done to reinforce it. Register here: [Together in the fight against environmental crime](#).

More news



ECJ ruling on "chasse à la glu" in France

On the 17th March, the European Court of Justice delivered its judgement on the use of limesticks in France. The judgement sets a very high standard for authorising the use of limesticks and other non-selective methods for the capture of birds by derogation under article 9 of the Birds Directive. This important [legal decision](#) is a great victory for birds!



Prevention is the best defence: anti-poaching unit rescues storks in Lebanon

When the Lebanese Anti-Poaching Unit (which is affiliated with the Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center and SPNL - the BirdLife partner organization in Lebanon) received a tip-off from hunters that a flock of storks in the Western Bekaa locality of Safra might be killed by a known group of poachers, they leapt into action...[Read more here](#).



Malta reopens the spring hunting season for Quails

Prime Minister Robert Abela's decision to reopen the spring hunting season is in full defiance of the EU. While Malta faces an Infringement Procedure on last year's opening of the spring hunting season, the European Commission has warned the Maltese Government that the opening of the hunting season for Common Quail coincides with the spring migration of the endangered European Turtle Dove. [Read more here.](#)

BirdLife Cyprus publishes 2020 trapping report

BirdLife Cyprus records lowest levels of mist net trapping in almost 20 years (94 % decrease) but the report indicates trapping with limesticks has increased. This increase is undoubtedly linked to the much lower fine of € 200 which does not act as a deterrent. This recent amendment to reduce the fine involving 14 species will exacerbate the phenomenon of illegal killing of protected species. [Read more here.](#)



Rome Strategic Plan updates

The Larnaca meeting already 10 years ago (!) started a lot of the work against the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB). The key message of the Larnaca conference was the "zero-tolerance toward IKB". The next Joint Meeting of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds will be an online meeting from **9th to 11th June 2021.**

This will be the 3rd Joint Meeting with the aim of building momentum for the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030. The results of the 2nd Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds submission of 2020 will be presented, as well as an appraisal of the work done through the Programme of Work for the period 2016-2020. The organising Secretariats will also present a work plan for the period 2021-2025 to implement the Rome Strategic Plan and a proposal for a methodology to assess the scale and scope of IKB. [Click here for more information.](#)

RSPB's investigation newsletter, the 'Legal Eagle'

Alongside other wildlife crime-related news in the most recent issue of the '[Legal Eagle](#)', you can read an update on the raptor crime surge, which has swept across the UK during the first Covid-19 lockdown. Confirmed cases include crimes against eagles, owls, peregrines and buzzards.

On a positive note, in Ireland, a specialized Wildlife Crime Unit is being rolled out in 2021, coupled with the launch of the Irish PAW (Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime). This excellent [animation](#) tells you why PAW is needed.



Launch of the new Flight for Survival website

The public awareness-raising anti-IKB campaign of the BirdLife partnership is starting its spring edition. For the new launch, the flightforsurvival.org website has been improved with more information on species, threats, countries and conservation work. This time 4 new species are joining the flock : the Sociable Lapwing, the Common Coot, the European Roller and the European Bee-eater. Follow the hashtag [#FlightForSurvival](#) on your favourite social media platform for updates.



Help our new **Wildlife Crime e-newsletter** to reach its audience by sharing it with colleagues and stakeholders who may be interested in this topic.



Our mailing address is:

wildlifecrime@birdlife.org

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This newsletter is a joint initiative of BirdLife International's African Eurasian flyway team: Stichting BirdLife Europe - BirdLife Middle East - BirdLife Africa. Stichting BirdLife Europe and BirdLife International gratefully acknowledge financial support from the MAVA Foundation and from the European Commission's LIFE programme through the LIFE against Bird Crime project (LIFE 17 GIE/NL/000599).

