



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

February, 2021

Hunting, Poisoning, Take and Trade of Birds – BirdLife’s bi-monthly newsletter: keeping you up to date with what’s happening in the fight against the illegal killing and unsustainable hunting of wild birds in the African-Eurasian Flyway. Please, send us your feedbacks to wildlifecrime@birdlife.org.

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Featured news

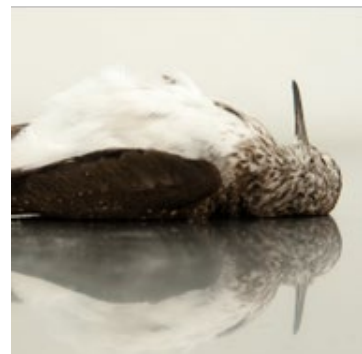


Cyprus petition

In December 2020, a serious relaxation of the bird protection law was voted on undermining decades of work to protect migratory songbirds from being illegally killed in Cyprus. The new amendment reduces fine for killing 14 protected bird species: down from € 2000 to € 200! Please, sign and share this [petition](#) calling for its annulment.

Dead by lead

Each year ca. 100 000 tonnes of lead is spread into EU environment as a result of sports shooting, hunting & fishing. Recently, the European Commission voted in favour of banning lead shots over wetlands. In February 2021, the ECHA published its proposal for further restrictions on the use of lead in ammunition. Read our article [here](#).



Events and campaigns



National Action Plan workshop

BirdLife and EuroNatur will jointly organize an online workshop about National Action Plans to tackle Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) on March 8 (afternoon) - 9 (morning), 2021. The workshop is aimed towards NGOs that support their national governments in creating and adopting a National IKB Action Plan.

If interested, please register [here](#).

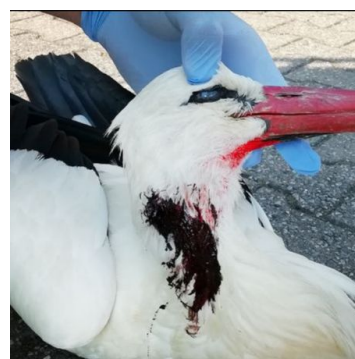
Debating the need to recognise wildlife crime as a serious criminal activity

This online conference will be organized by MEPs4Wildlife on March 16th. It is going to explore how better cooperation between Member States is needed with regard to transnational crimes, and where environmental crimes, specifically wildlife trafficking, converge with other forms of organised crime (e.g.

money-laundering, narcotics and terrorism). It will bring together a variety of stakeholders to consider the issue of whether wildlife crime should be recognised as a serious criminal activity that should be heavily penalised. Detailed agenda and registration are available [here](#).

Flight for Survival new campaign phase and website

Launching on March 15th, the new phase of BirdLife's IKB-focused "Flight for Survival" campaign will return with more species and more stories. Please, follow **#flightforsurvival** on our social media channels and check out the revamped new website [here](#).



Rome Strategic Plan updates

The [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030](#) was adopted both by the Bern Convention Standing Committee and the Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). This new strategy aims to halve bird crime across the Mediterranean within 10 years.

The joint Intergovernmental Taskforce of the Bern Convention and CMS on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (CMS MIKT) has launched the 2nd International Scoreboard exercise last autumn. The results will be shared during the next joint meeting, which is expected to take place online around June (exact date is pending).

Dr. Claire Papazoglou is the new coordinator of the CMS MIKT since December 2020.

More news

Sustainable hunting in Lebanon

The issue of illegal killing is a widespread concern for sustainable hunters in Lebanon. A hunter from Hammana in Lebanon shared his aspiration to maintain the hobby of sustainable hunting as he enjoyed the diversity of birds in the Hammana Hima, a sort of nature reserve, where he used to visit for the purpose of hunting. He believes that conserving nature and birds, will definitely has positive impacts on our lives and our children. Read more [here](#).



Spain national poisoning report

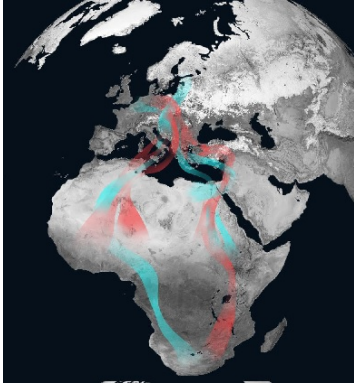
SEO/BirdLife Spain and WWF Spain together published a comprehensive [report on wildlife poisoning](#) in Spain. Between 1992 and 2017, the deaths of 21,260 animals have been confirmed due to the consumption of poisoned baits. As this is just the tip of the iceberg, the real figures can be more than 200,000 killed animals, in a total of 9,700 crime cases.

Successful operations in Italy against poachers

A large anti-poaching operation was concluded in the Po Delta, in Italy, by the Carabinieri CITES Operational Department SOARDA with Carabinieri Forestali units, the Carabinieri Biodiversity Department of Punta Marina and with the collaboration of BirdLife Partner Lipu and CABS volunteers. 22 people reported, over 6,000 cartridges, 21 rifles, 9 banned acoustic decoys seized and 961 dead ducks were found in the freezers of the accused. [Read more.](#)



After successful surveillance operations in Calabria, the Italian Financial Supervisory Authority (Guardia di Finanza) arrested a well-known Maltese businessman with more a cargo of more than 1,000 songbirds hidden in a van (estimated worth between 75-100,000€ on the black market.) The birds were freed. [Watch the video.](#)



Call for studies on IKB in Sub-Saharan Africa

BirdLife Africa is doing a desk study on IKB in sub-Saharan Africa. They are looking for any published papers, grey literature or data sources on hunting, trapping, taking, trade and poisoning to help them gather the data. If you've read any interesting studies or articles, they don't even need to be recent, please send any info to Alex.Ngari@birdlife.org.

Please, 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.



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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).

