



## Wildlife Crime Newsletter

May-June, 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](mailto:wildlifecrime@birdlife.org).

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### Featured news

#### **Intergovernmental Taskforce on Illegal Killing of Birds is around the corner**

The joint meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on the Eradication of Illegal

Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) will be held virtually on June 9-11, 2021. Government representatives from across North Africa, Europe, the Caucasus and the Middle East will attend, alongside several observer NGOs. Meeting documentation can be found [here](#). The information concerning previous responses to the IKB Scoreboard has been published for those countries which have agreed to have their data shared publicly, and is available [here](#).



## Events and campaigns



### Webinar on illegal hunting methods in the Mediterranean

As part of a series of events for World Migratory Bird Day, BirdLife International organized a webinar on May 18th to shed light on the wide array of unlawful methods used in Egypt and Lebanon for killing migratory birds. For those who were not able to join, you are welcome to find the webinar's recording in this [link](#).

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### Call for volunteers - Raptor Count in Georgia

Call is open for volunteers for the Batumi Raptor Count in Georgia. The count will run from the 12th of August until the 21st of October 2021. More information is available [here](#).



### Call for volunteers - Raptor Count in Lebanon

Raptor Count Lebanon 2021 is looking for volunteers. SPNL is teaming up with OSME to repeat the success of the 2019 migrating soaring bird count. The count takes place in the Upper Beirut River Valley for four weeks between mid-September and mid-October. If interested in joining in, click [here](#).

## More news

### Portuguese Parliament bans the sale of bird traps

Following long years of campaigning by SPEA (BirdLife Portugal), laws around the manufacture, possession and sale of bird traps have been revised! The law now prohibits not only the use of non-selective traps such as lime-sticks, snares and snap-traps, but also their sale, which now carries the risk of a fine of up to €18,000. After years of work with parliamentary groups and with the support of the thousands of citizens who signed SPEA's #ArmadiilhasNAO petition, this is an important step in the fight against the illegal trapping and killing of birds in Portugal. Read more [here](#).

### Adaptive harvest management for the Turtle Dove

The European Commission organized a second workshop on the establishment of an adaptive harvest management mechanism for the Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), in March for the Western flyway, and in May for the Eastern flyway. The recommendations of the expert team was a

zero harvest option for the Western flyway. There is a big data gap for the Central-Eastern flyway and the expert team was not able to produce a population model. BirdLife proposes a hunting moratorium for at least 4 years in both the Western and Central-Eastern flyway. Further discussion will take place on July 2nd, at a meeting of EU Member State representatives and observers (NADEG).



### **Granting a Safe Passage for Migratory Birds in Lebanon**

After more than four decades of illegal killing of migratory birds in Lebanon, an effective enforcement scheme is safeguarding numerous globally-protected species at two key sites along their migration. In spring 2020, for the first time in decades, thousands of migratory birds crossed Mount Terbol safely under the protection and surveillance of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. [Read more.](#)

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### **Environmental Crime remains a priority for the EU**

The European Council adopted conclusions setting the 2022-2025 EU priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime through the European multi-disciplinary platform against criminal threats (EMPACT). Environmental NGOs welcome the news about listing environmental crime among the ten crime priorities for the next 4-year cycle. Read more [here.](#)

## **Publications and Research**



**New paper on monitoring of migratory soaring birds**  
 Monitoring of migratory soaring birds at flyway bottlenecks is vital for informing population estimates and detecting population-level changes. A new paper published by BirdLife reviews current monitoring of major bottlenecks for migratory soaring birds in the East African-Eurasian flyway and makes recommendations for future steps. the full text can be downloaded [here](#).

### Improving the enforcement chain to address IKB in four Mediterranean countries

The LIFE Against Bird Crime project published a policy paper assessing current levels of IKB enforcement and providing concrete recommendations to improve the enforcement chain and sanctioning framework in four Mediterranean countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Greece and Italy. Read the full report [here](#).



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[wildlifecrime@birdlife.org](mailto: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).

