



# Wildlife Crime Newsletter

July-September 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. Please, send us your feedback to [wildlifecrime@birdlife.org](mailto:wildlifecrime@birdlife.org).



## Featured news



### BirdLife International's Conservation Webinar Series

#### Tackling illegal trade of Asian birds

On 15th September starting at 6am PDT US / 2pm GMT+1 UK / 9pm SST Singapore, you can hear from our specialists in the field about what the BirdLife Partnership is doing to tackle the bird trade crisis in Asia. You must register at this [link](#).

## Events and campaigns



### International Vulture Awareness Day

The first Saturday of September is always the international vulture awareness day! An intriguing synthesis paper by Dr. Steffen Oppel *et al.*, published recently in *Biological Conservation* examines the threats to Egyptian Vultures and other raptors in 13 countries along the flyway. The paper can be accessed for free until October [here](#).

For a fresh overview of one year tracking of Egyptian Vultures within the [Egyptian vulture New LIFE](#) project, check out [this article](#) with individual stories and maps. It's tragic noting that 5 out of the 6 dead Egyptian Vultures were illegally killed!

---

### Champions of the Flyway: Year of the Dove

The “Year of the Dove” campaign is in full swing, as Turtle Doves return to their wintering grounds. Follow the first race happening in North Israel on 30th Sept 2021. The population of the European Turtle Dove has [decreased by 30% in the last 15 years](#), yet they are both legally and illegally massacred in several countries along their flyway. Support the fund raising for our partners across the East Mediterranean flyway to combat the slaughter of Turtle Doves via innovative, on-the-ground initiatives and projects! Learn more [here](#).



### Rome Strategic Plan updates

Following a successful online meeting of CMS and Bern Convention parties to the IKB Task Force (MIKT) on the 9th-11th June 2021, the MIKT Workplan 2020-2025 has been adopted. The

presentations are available, the final workplan and meeting report will be uploaded on the [Workshop's website](#) in the coming days.



### **Wildlife Crime Academy launches!**

The Spanish Government, the Junta de Andalucía, together with an international NGO, the [Vulture Conservation Foundation \(VCF\)](#), held the first-ever Wildlife Crime Academy in Spain within the scope of the BalkanDetox LIFE project. A total of 34 professionals working in conservation, law enforcement and forensic science travelled from all over Europe to learn how to investigate wildlife crime. [Read more](#)

## **More news**



### **France bans the use of glue traps**

Kudos to BirdLife's partner in France, Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) which managed to put an end to songbird trapping with glue traps in France. Following legal action by LPO, France's highest court has now ruled that this practice is illegal, saying that an exemption that had permitted it was in breach of European legislation. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) had earlier judged this practice as incompatible with EU law. Read more [here](#) (in English) or [here](#) (in French).

## Horrible mass poisoning events in Europe

Nearly 100 vultures were found dead or dying in a [mass poisoning in Spain in June](#). Later the investigation revealed that it was caused by carbofuran – a powerful pesticide that has been banned in the EU since 2008.



## [The most serious poisoning case ever recorded in Hungary discovered in August](#)

The first searches revealed more than a hundred poisoned baits - infected with a type of strong neurotoxin - and more than one hundred poisoned animal carcasses were found! 96% of the carcasses were protected birds, the majority, being Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*). Subsequent fieldwork further increased the number of findings since this linked article. Investigation is ongoing.

---

## Raptors also fall victim to illegal shooting in France

This time a Griffon vulture was shot. LPO calls on the law enforcement authorities and the leaders of hunters' organisations to act, as the perpetrators of these scandalous acts are rarely get caught and condemned. Read more [here](#).





### Malta finch trapping

Finch trapping in Malta is coming to an end! On 9 June the European Commission issued a final warning to Malta as it announced that a Reasoned Opinion has been sent to the Maltese Government in relation to the infringement procedure initiated against Malta in December on finch trapping under the false pretence of a scientific and research study.

Read [more](#).


---

[Subscribe](#)

**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.**

To read past editions of this newsletter, check out our website

[Flight for Survival](#)

 [Share](#)

 [Tweet](#)

 [Forward](#)

