



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

February, 2022

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 persecutions in the African-Eurasian Flyway. Please, send us your feedback to wildlifecrime@birdlife.org.

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Featured news

Unravelling the scope of IKB in sub-Saharan Africa

BirdLife International conducted a region-wide literature review



for sub-Saharan Africa between September 2020 and May 2021, with the aim of identifying the bird taxa & numbers affected, IKB methods, factors driving IKB and affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 632 cases were analysed in the literature review. Read the highlights [here](#).

Revision of the Environmental Crime Directive

The European Commission [published](#) its proposal for the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive in December 2021 to improve environmental protection through criminal law. The proposal defines new environmental crimes, sets a minimum level for sanctions and strengthens the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation. Read BirdLife's first assessment [here](#).



Events and campaigns



13,700 citizens demand deterrent fines for bird trapping

On the 30th of November 2021, BirdLife Cyprus handed to the President of the House of Representatives, Ms. Annita Demetriou, more than 13,700 signatures calling for the annulment of the relaxation of the bird protection law. Read [more](#).

Wild birds belong to nature: Greek campaign against illegal pet trade

It is estimated that every year, more than 500 thousand wild birds are trapped in Greece for illegal pet trade. The Hellenic Ornithological Society, the BirdLife partner in Greece has produced a video spot right to the point. [Check it out and help to spread it](#).



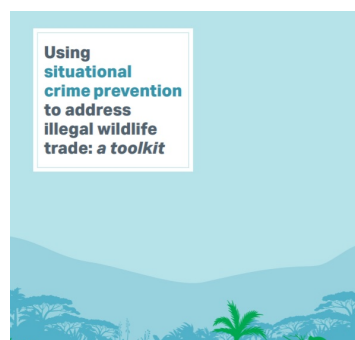
Rome Strategic Plan updates

The provisional date for the next Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (IKB) and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on IKB in the Mediterranean ([MIKT](#)) is planned between **7-9 June, 2022**. The 5th MIKT workshop continues to aim to facilitate international cooperation as well as the implementation of the guidelines and action plans to tackle IKB.

More news

Status of illegal trade in wild birds In Jordan

The Royal Society for Conservation of Nature ([RSCN](#)) - with the support of the [Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project](#) - published a report on the status of illegal bird trade in Jordan. The study was carried out during the period between April-October 2019 and aimed to identify the size of illegal bird trade at Amman's local market and via online pages. Read the full [report](#).



New toolkit to transform actions on illegal wildlife trade

Working collaboratively with criminologists, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) [published](#) a practical toolkit designed to enable conservation practitioners to apply situational crime prevention to address illegal wildlife trade. The toolkit is freely available for download on FFI's [website](#).

Conviction of the gamekeeper caught on camera killing buzzards in cage trap in Nottinghamshire

Gamekeeper sentenced to total of 20 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months & fined £1000 after pleading guilty to killing two buzzards on pheasant shoot. Read more [here](#).



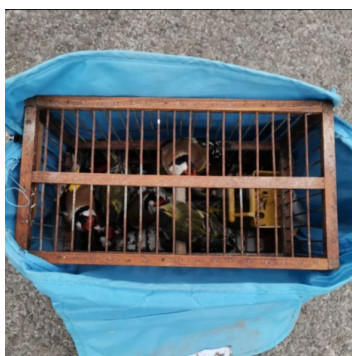
Hunters and ornithologists join forces to stop the illegal killing of birds of prey

The killing of birds of prey in Danish nature must be completely stopped, according to the Danish Ornithological Society (DOF) and the Danish Hunters' Association (DJ). Now entering a '[bird of prey partnership](#)', DOF and DJ will begin a collaboration to spread knowledge about the birds of prey's biology and role in nature.

Red-breasted geese are victims of poaching too

Photos showing shot Red-breasted goose carcasses cast shadow on the geese hunting season across Europe. As a globally vulnerable species, this bird is protected throughout its range. In November, a [dead Red-necked goose](#) was found with lead shots in its body in Hungary. The incident happened shortly after the Ministry of Agriculture relaxed hunting regulations, eliminating the limited hunting season previously in place for geese hunting in some counties.

The Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS) [reported similar images](#) from Albania, where a complete moratorium on hunting is in place since 2014.



Horrible poaching situation in South-Serbia

Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BPSSS)/BirdLife Serbia [reported](#) that song bird poaching and trapping in Southern Serbia is a serious conservation problem. 34 such cases were recorded in just a few days in December, when anti-poaching team collected evidence.

Possible mass poisoning event in Spain

On the 10th of January 2022, a mass poisoning event was reported by locals in Olmedo, Valladolid, Spain. The authorities were informed and the next day the environmental police investigated the area. In total, seven red kites, one common buzzard, one red fox and one cat were found dead, showing symptoms of poisoning. The investigation is [ongoing](#).



Anti-poaching successes in Italy

Operation 'Recall' fights against the use of electronic bird callers, which are prohibited but unfortunately still common during hunting of larks and thrushes. 25 reported crime cases, 21 seized guns, 59 administrative penalties for a total of about € 8,000 are the main results of this year's operation, carried out by Carabinieri Forestale in collaboration with volunteer hunting- guards of LIPU/BirdLife Italy between mid-October and mid-December, in the territory of Rome province. Read [more](#).

Photo exhibition helps to save birds

Nature Conservation Egypt, the Egyptian BirdLife partner, organized the second Birds Photographers' Exhibition in Egypt, where 100 photographers shared more than 100 photos reflecting on the threats the different species face, such as illegal bird hunting, poisoning and threats by energy infrastructure.



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