



# Wildlife Crime Newsletter

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

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**Featured news**



### Eurasian-African bird migration atlas launched

Visit [migrationatlas.org](http://migrationatlas.org) to view the interesting visualisations of bird movements based on ring recoveries and satellite tracking data. One of the research components was the data analysis of intentional, anthropogenic killings of birds with particular reference to illegal killing. Check the report [here](#).

## Events and campaigns

### 4<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Flyway conference held

The [4<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Flyway Conference](#), which took place in Zadar, Croatia from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April, and was organized by [EuroNatur](#) and the [Croatian Society for Birds and Nature Protection](#), provided an excellent platform for regional conservationists to share novel data on the decline of migratory birds along the Adriatic part of the Black Sea-Mediterranean Flyway. The participants adopted the joint [Zadar declaration](#) calling on the governments along the Adriatic Flyway to end illegal killing of birds in the Balkans.



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

[Champions of the Flyway](#) is a well-know fundraising event and an extraordinary annual bird race for the conservation of birds. This year the race took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April with 28 participating teams. All donations will fund crucial efforts to save Turtle Doves on the ground in Malta, Cyprus and Greece.

### Rome Strategic Plan updates

The [4<sup>th</sup> 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) will be held between **7-9 June, 2022**. The event is organised in hybrid format, both in person and online. You can find all important background information and meeting documents at the [CMS MIKT](#) and [Bern Convention](#) websites.

## More news

### **Terrible blow to the Griffon Vulture population in Cyprus**

In early May, three vultures, including one adult bird and two chicks, were found dead in the Paphos District. This tragic event confirms how vulnerable the Griffon Vulture population is and the urgent need to tackle the threats this species faces. Read the joint statement by BirdLife Cyprus and the Game & Fauna Service [here](#).



### **Shutting down Egypt's huge wildlife trade black market**

A great conservation success was achieved in Egypt with substantial contribution by [NCE/BirdLife Egypt](#), when the country's biggest black market for wildlife trade in the city of Aswan was closed by the government. Read the [article](#) on the "Egyptian Vulture New LIFE" project's website.

## Spring hunting on Malta

Following the end of this year's spring hunting season, BirdLife Malta notes that it was once again a season riddled with illegalities, mainly the targeting of protected birds including the European Turtle-dove. Read the full article [here](#).



## Peregrine poisonings: suspect arrested in Switzerland

Repeatedly poisoned birds of prey have been found in Basel. 6 dead peregrine falcons and 2 common buzzards since summer 2020 are sad evidence that poachers are at work. There are only around 300 breeding pairs of peregrine falcon left in Switzerland. A suspect has now been identified and questioned. [Press release](#) by BirdLife Switzerland on February 18, 2022.

## Regional Council of Lombardy approves shameful gift to poachers

In Lombardy, Italy the Regional Council has relaxed the legislation to allow hunters to donate small songbirds for restaurants or festivals for free to circumvent the ban on sales. This could not only increase the demand for songbird consumption, but will also make the authorities' task to control the pathway of illegally sourced birds and enforce the law a lot more difficult. Read the Italian BirdLife partner, LIPU's article [here](#).





### Results of the Anti-Poaching Unit Activities in Lebanon

As part of the Lebanese BirdLife partner's, [SPNL](#)'s fight against illegal killing of birds within the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project, SPNL has worked to develop capacities of its Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) - established in 2018, - and strengthen its collaboration with various stakeholders. Read about their successes [here](#). In order to develop cooperation in combatting poaching, a [workshop](#) was organized in April between the Anti-Poaching Unit and officers from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces.

## Research & Publications

### Bird Conservation International collection papers on IKB

Centenary Collections 2022 marks 100 years since the founding of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) – now BirdLife International. To celebrate this milestone, the Cambridge University Press gives free access to its selected [centenary collection on "hunting, harvesting and persecution"](#) for a limited period.



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