



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

August-September, 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



Successful operation on a bird of prey slaughter site

The Lebanese and international activists from CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter), SPNL (Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon) and MESHHC (Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center) carried out an operation in the Akkar district of northern Lebanon. When the police arrived the teams caught three poachers red-handed with the remains of over 40 protected birds of prey. To read more and to watch the shocking footage about the massacre click [here](#).

Qawra Point becomes a nature reserve, and no more hunting for the flamingo shooter

BirdLife Malta has long insisted with the authorities to ban hunting on this small, but important migratory stop-over site and infamous illegal hunting hotspot. Now, in September, the Qawra Point has been [designated as a nature reserve](#) and a no-hunting zone by the Minister for Environment. The designation comes a year after the infamous killing of four Greater Flamingos by a hunter, who now has been sentenced with a one-year jail term along with the confiscation of his shotgun and a revocation of his hunting licence for life. [Read more.](#)



Events and campaigns



“Lunchtime IKB talks” webinar series

BirdLife International and BirdLife Europe & Central Asia jointly organize informal, fresh and engaging online talks. An expert joins us each time to give a short presentation about research, initiatives, methods related to the illegal killing of birds. The talks are held every two weeks, on Wednesdays and at 13 CET. Interested? Send an email to lilla.barabas@birdlife.org with your request to subscribe to the dissemination list.

Rome Strategic Plan updates

The [4th 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) took place in Valencia and online from 7 to 9 June 2022. The [meeting report](#) is now available on the meeting's website.

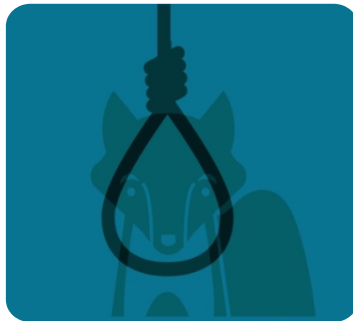
On September 19th, CMS hosted a technical workshop to help governments on methodology for monitoring how much illegal killing is happening within their countries. More detail on the workshop objectives [here](#).

Research & Publications

Centenary collection on Bird Trade

Another relevant centenary collection of BCI papers have been made freely available by Cambridge University Press for a limited period to mark the 100th anniversary of BirdLife International. This release on the topic of Wild Bird Trade comes in the lead up to the

19th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Panama in November 2022, where decisions vital to the conservation of many traded bird species will be taken. Find the link [here](#).



Economic valuation of protected animals

SEO/BirdLife – within the framework of the [LIFE Nature Guardians](#) project – has prepared a report for the purpose of establishing certain criteria and methods to enable an economic valuation of protected wildlife species in Spain and other countries in the European Union. You can download the report [in English](#) or [in Spanish](#).

More news

Vultures deliberately poisoned in in South Africa and Botswana

On the 11th of August 2022, park rangers discovered approximately 100 vulture carcasses in South Africa's Kruger National Park. 27 were still alive and taken to a rehabilitation centre to receive treatment. A day later, further North, authorities

found more than 50 White-backed vultures in Botswana's northern Chobe district. Read more [here](#).



With the autumn bird migration, the hunting season has also started, resulting in many sad news of excesses and illegal casualties:



Three Eurasian Curlews - equipped with GPS transmitters - were poached in France, right at the opening of the hunting season, despite that this threatened species has been subject to a hunting moratorium since 2020. Read [more](#) (in French).

A tagged Egyptian vulture, which earlier visited 22 countries on three continents, was found [dead with traces of a gunshot wound](#) in Bulgaria.



In Cyprus, Lake Soros continues to be a blackspot for illegal bird killing despite repeated calls for a hunting ban at this problem site. So far, this September alone, volunteers and members of staff of BirdLife Cyprus and CABS found many protected non-game bird



species shot, including European Roller, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Eurasian Hobby and Crested Lark. Read [more](#).

The British base police successfully arrested a poacher, who was caught red-handed when illegally [trapping birds with mist nests](#) in the Pyla range of Xylophagou.

BirdLife Malta reported several protected birds being [injured from shots](#) within 24 hours of opening the autumn hunting season in Malta.

An investigation conducted by the Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) has led the police to one of the largest illegal live bird collections seized on Malta in recent years. A total of [136 protected birds from 18 different species were confiscated](#) following an operation against illegal trapping in Għaxaq. A suspect was apprehended on site.



In Serbia, the police have registered almost daily cases of using electronic calls for quail poaching earlier in September. See posts from BPSSS/BirdLife Serbia [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Raptor persecution in the UK also provides regular awful news, such as the [red kite which was reported to be found shot](#) in Essex.

New information has been also shared about the case of an

earlier raptor killing (eight buzzards and a sparrowhawk) dating back to 2019 in Scotland. Read [more](#).



Successful prosecution in Malta

Finally, a poaching case has come to a verdict. A man filmed hunting illegally by the BirdLife Malta team way back in Apr 2017, was sentenced with a €3,000 fine and a four-year suspension of his hunting licence this September. Read more [here](#).

Better protection for raptors in Austria

BirdLife Austria published a [press release](#) on new poaching legislation, which will make the criminal prosecution easier. Read the whole article [here](#) (in German).



Conviction in Slovakia for possession of carbofuran

For the first time ever, Slovakia has seen a conviction for illegally possessing carbofuran - a toxic pesticide banned from the EU since 2008. In connection with bird crime, carbofuran is the most often abused poison in Central Europe for deliberate poisoning of birds of prey. The final ruling imposed a fine and an

alternative sentence of two months' imprisonment if the convicted perpetrator not paying. Read [more](#).

Calls & activities

Vulture count in Turkey

Volunteers are needed to count vultures in Turkey until mid-October. You may have missed this season, but [take a look at these numbers](#)! You are in time to plan for next year.



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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