



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

October-November-December, 2022

BirdLife's approximately 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



A colourful publication on recent IKB results

Across the BirdLife Partnership, we have an unmatched ability to share best practices and extrapolate national achievements to other areas that face similar issues across the Mediterranean. In this report, we celebrate the achievements of the BirdLife Partnership to make the Mediterranean a safer place for migratory birds. Read our ["Flight for Survival" Report!](#)

Mediterranean IKB specialists flock in Albania

In October, 48 colleagues participated at the Mediterranean IKB workshop in Tirana, hosted by the [Albanian Ornithological Society](#). Together they represented 25 nature conservation NGOs from 23 countries, that tackle the IKB problems across the region. This was the closing event of the 4-year project "[LIFE Against Bird Crime](#)", but the main purpose was to engage in a strategic discussion about the IKB work for the next years.



Rome Strategic Plan updates

The [42nd meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention](#) took place between Nov 28 - Dec

2. Regarding the issue of IKB, the Committee adopted the following resolutions:

- adopted the proposed instructions for [additional narrative to support Scoreboard submissions](#) (note that a new assessment is planned in 2023)
- endorsed the [legislative guidance document](#) with the [model law provisions](#)
- endorsed the [recommendations for the development and implementation of national Action Plans against IKB](#)

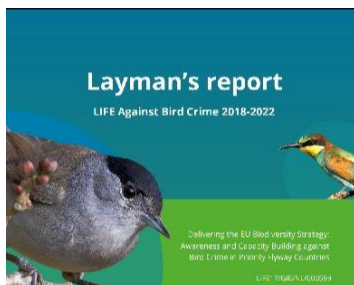
The Committee also acknowledged the progress in the development of a [methodology, guidance and common format for conducting socio-economic research](#) into the motivations behind IKB.

CMS has published [calls](#) for expressions of interest from organizations or individuals to develop reports on the use of aquatic and avian wild meat of CMS-listed species of animals.
Closing date: 31 January 2023.

Research & Publications

RSPB's 2021 Birdcrime Report is out

2021 was the second highest raptor persecution numbers confirmed in the UK: there were 108 confirmed, recorded incidents! Over two thirds were connected to land managed for gamebird shooting. The RSPB's [Birdcrime 2021 report](#) (released in November 2022) reveals a shocking insight into these crimes and what needs to change in order to secure a better future for birds of prey.



LIFE against Bird Crime project: Layman's report

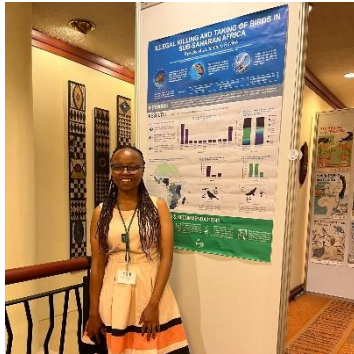
The four-year LIFE Against Bird Crime project ended in October 2022. The consortium carried out a variety of actions against IKB in Cyprus, Croatia, Italy and Greece. Read our Layman's report [here](#).

Understanding illegal trades in European wildlife

The first [paper](#) from the [Beastly Business](#) project provides an interesting look into the dynamics of trade in Europe, concluding that IWT is often portrayed as a problem in Africa and Asia, despite Europe being a major player (as source, consumer and transit area), that IWT is often presented as an issue of crime and security, and that the intertwined nature of illegal and legal trade is often



overlooked, as is the role of cultural drivers and economic inequalities.



Best poster at the PAOC: IKB in sub-Saharan Africa

Consolata Gathoni [won the poster session](#) of the recent Pan-African Ornithological Congress with an excellent poster about IKB in sub-Saharan Africa. She completed a desk-based literature review as a BirdLife intern under the Conservation Leadership Program. If you would like to learn more about her research, you can listen to this previous [webinar](#).

More news

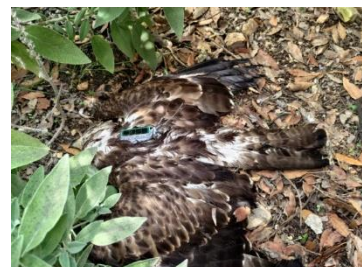


Illegal bird killing: the darker side of Cyprus

An opinion piece on illegal bird killing in Cyprus by Guy Shorrock, a former UK police officer and a wildlife crime investigator for the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK). Read it [here](#).

Tagged Honey-buzzard shot in Malta

GPS-tracked Finnish Honey-buzzard killed in Malta after three-week journey through 10 European countries. Carcass retrieved through collaboration between BirdLife Malta, EPU police and scientific researchers. Read [more](#).





The French Council of State declares the traditional trapping of birds illegal

France wanted to allow trapping of over 100,000 migratory birds again in the name of “tradition”, but the supreme court for administrative justice suspended the decrees again for the 4th consecutive year. LPO - BirdLife partner in France - calls for the definitive abolition of this barbaric practice once and for all. Read [more](#) (in French).

Griffon vulture found shot in Syria

End of November, a Griffon vulture was found shot in Syria next to the Al Swayda site. It is a young bird fledged this year from the Radoinj colony, Serbia. He went on a youthful wandering and covered 1895 km. His wing is broken, there is little chance of full recovery. A raptor repatriation center in Lebanon has been offered to take care of the bird's recovery. Read [more](#).

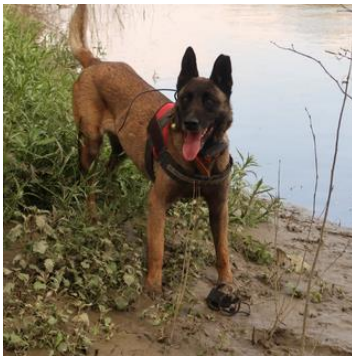


5 White-tailed eagles poisoned again in Serbia

Another case of animal poisoning was discovered in the vicinity of Selenča in the South Bačka district on Nov 20th - poisoning 5 white-tailed eagles, 3 foxes and 2 dogs. According to the Society for the Protection and Study of Birds of Serbia since 2000 to this date 104 white-tailed birds have died in Serbia from the consequences of poisoning! Since 2000, 321 cases of poisoning were detected, killing over 2,070 birds in total. Read [more](#) (in Serbian).

Limestick use in the Netherlands

In November, a pair of red crossbills was found on a glued limestick in Elspeet, the Netherlands. The male was already dead and the female bird was removed and taken to the vet in bad condition. The investigation is underway. Read [more](#) (in Dutch).



Scavenger hunt in Hungary

Prosecution brought charges against four hunters who killed a strictly protected GPS-tagged cinereous vulture last spring and four common buzzards. In April 2021, Bulgarian NGO Green Balkans alerted MME/Birdlife Hungary about a GPS-tagged cinereous vulture. The circumstances made it probable that the bird was deliberately shot, the tracking device was cut off and thrown into the river. Read [more](#).

Raptor persecution caught on video by CABS in Germany

Gamekeeper catches and kills strictly protected goshawk in front of CABS staff and police, and it was [recorded on camera](#). On leaving the scene, the man was intercepted by the police. During a search of the suspects property, another active goshawk trap was discovered. As motive, the offender stated that he wanted to protect the local "small game" as well as his poultry from birds of prey. Criminal proceedings have been initiated against him.



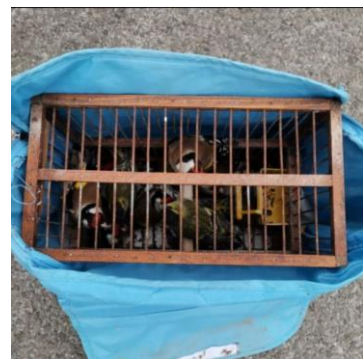


Disappointingly low fine in UK court

A gamekeeper from Weeting, UK pleaded guilty to killing 6 Buzzards, a Goshawk, placing poison baits, being in possession of strychnine, using a firearms to kill birds of prey and releasing pheasants on an SPA. He received 200 hours community punishment and fine of £692. Read [more](#).

Maltese finch trapping research is a lie, says CABS

Since 20 October start of trapping season, countless instances of unlawful bird trapping were reported to police. Officers from the Environmental Protection Unit and Gozo Police caught 30 poachers red-handed and seized trapping equipment worth thousands of euros. 45 large clap-nets and 368 caught live birds were confiscated. Read [more](#).



Responding to wildlife poisoning incidents in West Africa to save vultures

In 2022, BirdLife International in collaboration with Andre Bothe, a re-known vulture specialist and expert in poisoning from the Endangered Wildlife Trust, organized capacity building workshops in Senegal, Gambia and Guinea Bissau on responding to wildlife poisoning incidents. Across the three countries, more than 250 people are now engaged or sensitized on issues of wildlife poisoning. Read [more](#).

Calls & activities

“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 more or less 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.



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