



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

January-February, 2023

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



EU stepping up against unlawful bird hunting

In [January](#), the EC called on France to stop illegal bird hunting and capture methods. France has authorised several non-selective methods for the capture of huntable birds, such as nets and cage traps for skylark and pigeons including the turtle dove. The use of glue for hunting thrushes is also still permitted in the French law, contrary to the Directive. In [February](#), EC called on Malta to stop the spring hunting of turtle dove. Read BirdLife Malta's article for details [here](#).

Rome Strategic Plan updates

In 2023, there will be a [Scoreboard](#) exercise for MIKT and BernC countries to assess the progress in combating IKB. The assessment for the national governments will open in spring and will include [additional narrative](#) to be more in line with the [Rome Strategic Plan](#). The countries will be requested to report on their baseline IKB indicator values and methodology of measuring the progress for achieving the 50% reduction by 2030.

Research & Publications

Launch of the Beastly Business Policy Briefs

The briefs focus on cross cutting outcomes of the Beastly Business project, which has been conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Sheffield. The main topic is the illegal wildlife trade in Europe and the four published themes are: green collar crimes, charisma and harms, uncertain scientific knowledge and the role of consumption. Find out more [here](#).





Acoustic monitoring confirms spring poaching of European Turtle Doves in the Ionian islands

In this study, the authors used a network of acoustic sensors to record the gun hunting pressure at known hunting sites in the Ionian Islands (Greece) over four spring migrations (2019–2022). Based on the number of gunshots recorded, they estimate that up to 57,095 turtle doves were killed or injured across the region in 2021. Read the full article [here](#).

Implications for sustainable harvest management of Turtle Dove in Spain

In 2021 and 2022, no hunting of Turtle Doves was permitted in France, Spain or Portugal for the first time. Dr. Lara Moreno-Zarate from the Institute for Research in Hunting Resources in Spain explained the findings of their research in [RSPB's blog](#). The full original paper is available [here](#).



More news

Bird trapping with nets continues to decline in Cyprus

The new report from BirdLife Cyprus and the RSPB has revealed that an estimated 345,000 songbirds were illegally trapped and killed last autumn on the island of Cyprus. The bird trapping level still shows an improvement: trapping with nets almost halved (49%) compared to autumn 2021. Read more [here](#) and [here](#). Watch RSPB's [video](#) about the work on Cyprus to end illegal songbird trapping.



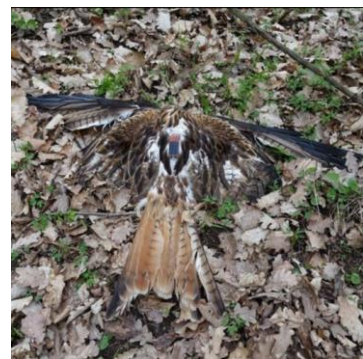


Imperial eagle shot in Austria

On February 10, a severely injured [imperial eagle was found](#) in the Tulln municipality in Austria. The bird was shot and its condition has gotten stable after surgery, but its fate is uncertain. It remains to be seen whether he will ever be released back into the wild. The eagle hatched in the Czech Republic last year. Police investigation is underway.

Second convicted bird poisoner in Czechia

The poisoner applied carbofuran with a syringe to chicken eggs and dead pigeons with the intention of killing raptors; and he killed two red kites. He was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment suspended for 3 years. It is the second time that someone in the Czech Republic has been convicted for poisoning wild animals. Read more [here](#).



A first for Cyprus: a fine for poisoning raptors

€21,000 fine was issued in January by the prosecuting authorities in Cyprus for the killing of wild birds using poison baits. The fine represents a big step forward that will hopefully have a strong deterrent effect on similar illegal actions, which have a devastating impact on Cyprus wildlife. Read more [here](#).

Serbian man is detained for poaching a buzzard

A man was arrested and detained under suspicion of capturing and injuring a common buzzard caught in an illegal bear trap. Buzzards are protected species in the Republic of Serbia. Read more [here](#).

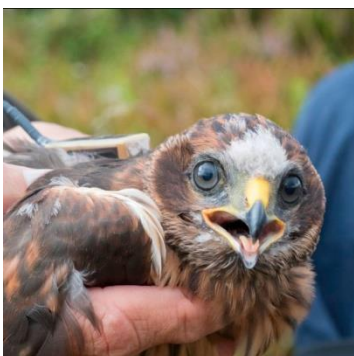


Egg collection seized in the UK

Suffolk Police's Rural, Wildlife & Heritage Team has seized what it describes as a 'vast' egg collection in Halesworth in early January. The haul is thought to include clutches of hen harrier and osprey eggs. Read more [here](#).

Shocking poaching cases and suspected poisoning incident involving Balkan vultures

At least two Griffon Vultures from the Balkans recently lost their lives after being illegally shot. Learn more [here](#). On the last day of 2022, the GPS-tagged Cinereous Vulture, originally reintroduced in Bulgaria, was found dead in Greece. Read more [here](#).



Raptor persecution in the UK: an overall look in the Mirror

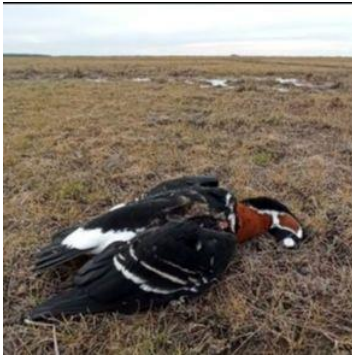
A comprehensive coverage of raptor persecution, that looks at what's behind the rising bird crime waves in the UK, with some recent cases in the spotlight. Have a read [here](#).

Illegal wildlife trade: how birds from Guinea end up in Serbia then in European pet shops

"When the EU banned the importation of wild birds in 2005, the illegal trade along the Balkans route gathered pace."-states this [article](#) in the Daily Maverick.



Campaigns & fundraising



Champions of the Flyway help to save the Red-breasted Goose

This year's Champions of the Flyway campaign will directly fund conservation projects for Red-breasted Geese in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan. Project efforts include satellite tagging, deploying patrols, prosecuting illegal hunting, education & outreach. For full details click [here](#).

Stop the slaughter campaign

BirdLife and its partners are actively tackling wildlife crime in the Mediterranean. We must fight together to demand that governments act on illegal killing of birds, and we must work with communities to protect vulnerable species. You can support our work [here](#).



Calls & activities



Call for volunteers by BirdLife Malta

Recruitment call for volunteers to join this year's SpringWatch camp which will monitor illegalities during the spring hunting season. If you want to monitor the spring migration, the hunting season, and wildlife crime, send an email to blmcamps@birdlifemalta.org by the 17th of March 2023. Visit <http://bit.ly/volunteerwithBLM> and click on the **Spring Watch 2023 volunteers** tab to read more.

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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