



Wildlife Crime Newsletter

May-June, 2023

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.

[Subscribe](#)



[Featured news](#)

France: Supreme Court buried traditional bird trapping

At the request of the LPO, BirdLife partner in France, the highest administrative court has ordered, in a decision handed down on May 24th, the repeal of decrees that are nearly 35 years old, which framed practices of traditional trapping of wild birds. These decrees have already been deemed illegal under European law on several occasions. Read more [here](#).



Rome Strategic Plan updates

The deadline for submitting the [Scoreboard](#) to assess the national progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) for MIKT and Bern Convention countries is the **14th of July, 2023**.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) has launched a call for a consultant to prepare a report on the impacts of avian wild meat for human consumption in the AEMLAP range states. The call documents are available [here](#) (deadline: July 11, 2023)

The final document on '[Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations behind IKB](#)' has now been uploaded on the MIKT website, under the section on the Rome Strategic Plan and Objective 1 on Monitoring the Scope, Scale and Motivations of IKB.

The [14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals will be organized in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 23 to 28 October 2023 (COP14). The CMS Secretariat has prepared a [report on the progress of tackling IKB](#), which is available among the meeting documents. It also contains the draft amendments to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) and the draft decisions to be adopted at the COP14 meeting.

More news



White-tailed Eagle poisonings

Czech Republic: Nesting female White-tailed Eagle was killed in Toužim region. The couple of weeks old young also died. This year only, the Czech Ornithological Society has recorded 18 poisoned birds of prey so far, including 10 White-tailed Eagles. Read [more](#).

UK: Police are investigating the circumstances following the discovery of two dead White-tailed Eagles, in Ballymena, Northern Ireland in mid-May. Read [more](#).

Germany: A White-tailed Eagle and a Red Kite were found killed by illegal poison bait near Ilsede, in Lower Saxony at the end of April. CABS has offered a €5,000 reward for information on the case. Read [more](#).

Final conviction in the case of the shot White-tailed Eagle in Germany

In February, 2022 a strictly protected [White-tailed Eagle was shot down](#) by an irresponsible hunter in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. The bird carried a GPS transmitter from the LIFE EUROKITE project, which precisely recorded the course of the crime. The accused 81-year-old man admitted shooting down the eagle. Now he was [convicted](#) to a fine of €1,800.



Community payback order for 'serious' bird poisoning

Dumfries-shire wildfowl collector was given 216 hours of community payback order for bird poisoning offences. He pled guilty to illegal poisoning of five Red Kites and 10 Rooks, the placing of poison baits out in open countryside and the possession of banned pesticides. Read more [here](#).

Two other satellite tagged Hen Harriers disappeared in May in suspicious circumstances

Two Hen Harriers have vanished in suspicious circumstances in just two weeks within the Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and nearby North Yorkshire. These cases happened not long after the RSPB reported that at least 21 Hen Harriers had been either killed or suspiciously disappeared in the North of England in 2022. Hen Harriers are on the red list of conservation concern, with illegal killing being the key factor limiting their recovery. Read [more on RSPB's website](#).



Palestine: Freeing an illegally caged black kite

The Environmental Quality Authority in Nablus Governorate, in cooperation with the Tourism, Antiquities and Environment Police managed to free a Black Kite from a citizen who kept in a cage. The Environmental Quality Authority said that the bird has been handed over to the National Zoo in Qalqilya for medical check and preparation for releasing it back to nature. ([Source](#))

Common kestrel offered for sale in Germany for €2000

In June, following reporting of an online advertisement by CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter), the police confiscated a protected kestrel in the district of Kassel. After the operation, the bird was successfully released into the wild. Read [more](#).





Wildlife crime news from Lebanon

All these results stem from the combined efforts and effective coordination between the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF). APU is affiliated with the Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center (MESHHC) and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL). Two poachers were arrested for poaching: Zgharta police unit arrested poachers in the area of the Terbol mountains in North Lebanon on May 5. Three hunting rifles and several cartridges were seized. Administrative arrest warrants were drawn up against the poachers, and they were released on bail. (See [original post](#))

Ethical hunter informs APU about shot bird: After finding an injured long-legged buzzard in Muheet-al-Mazraa in Minnaya (Tripoli), a hunter informed APU. The bird underwent the necessary medical tests and treatments and hopefully will be able to return to nature. (See [original post](#))

Security Forces arrest seller of Nightingales' nests: After a suspicious online advertisement reported by the cyber team of the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) to the Public Relations Division of the Internal Security Forces (ISF), a poacher selling nightingales' nests and young birds was arrested in May. (See the [original post](#))

Falcon trafficking soars in north-eastern Syria

An insightful reportage showing how poverty and lawlessness drive falcon trapping and smuggling on a scale never seen before at the border of Syria and Iraq. Read more [here](#) and watch the report video [here](#).



Research & publications



Scientific paper confirms widespread Hen Harrier persecution on UK grouse moors

Research published by [Ewing et al.](#), 2023, in the Biological Conservation, reveals that young Hen Harriers suffer abnormally high mortality and it provides compelling evidence that the most likely cause is illegal killing in areas associated with grouse moor management. Read more [here](#) or watch the 4-minute video [here](#).

CABS guide on illegal raptor persecution in Germany

The Committee Against Bird Slaughter published a 40-page guide on how to deal with cases of illegal raptor persecution in Germany. According to the nationwide registration 1,653 raptor persecution cases with 2,238 victims were detected and documented between 2005-2021. The brochure can be downloaded from the <http://www.greifvogelverfolgung.de/> website [here](#).



Campaigns & events



World Migratory Bird Day 2023

Twice a year, billions of migratory birds embark on the most epic journeys across the globe that nature has to offer. But human activities are making the bird's travels even more dangerous. Share [BirdLife's new animation video](#) to raise awareness of these threats.

LIFE EUROKITE Midterm Conference

The LIFE EuroKite project works for the cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality. The project will organize its Midterm Conference & Advisory Board meeting on the 5th October 2023. The program includes presentations on the raptor persecution problem. The registration closes on July 15th. Find the details and the agenda [here](#).



Calls & activities



Volunteer at Batumi Raptor Count

As one of the major bottlenecks for raptor migration worldwide, you can expect to see lots of birds of prey. The season starts building up to the peak of Honey Buzzards and Montagu's Harriers around the first days of September; during mid-September there is a nice diversity with more species and towards the last days of September the numbers build up towards the peak of Steppe Buzzard and Lesser Spotted Eagle. [Apply here](#).

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.



Share



Tweet



Forward

Our mailing address is:

wildlifecrime@birdlife.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This newsletter is a joint initiative of BirdLife International's African Eurasian flyway team: Stichting BirdLife Europe - BirdLife Middle East - BirdLife Africa. Stichting BirdLife Europe and BirdLife International gratefully acknowledge financial support from the European Commission's LIFE programme through the NGO operational grant.

