

# Reduction in the persecution of birds in Spain is reflected in the changes in causes of admission in Wildlife Recovery Centers

Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention and the CMS on Illegal Killing in Wild Birds in the Mediterranean. **Valencia, 7-9 June, 2022**



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**GENERALITAT  
VALENCIANA**

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# How to investigate the causes of death of birds

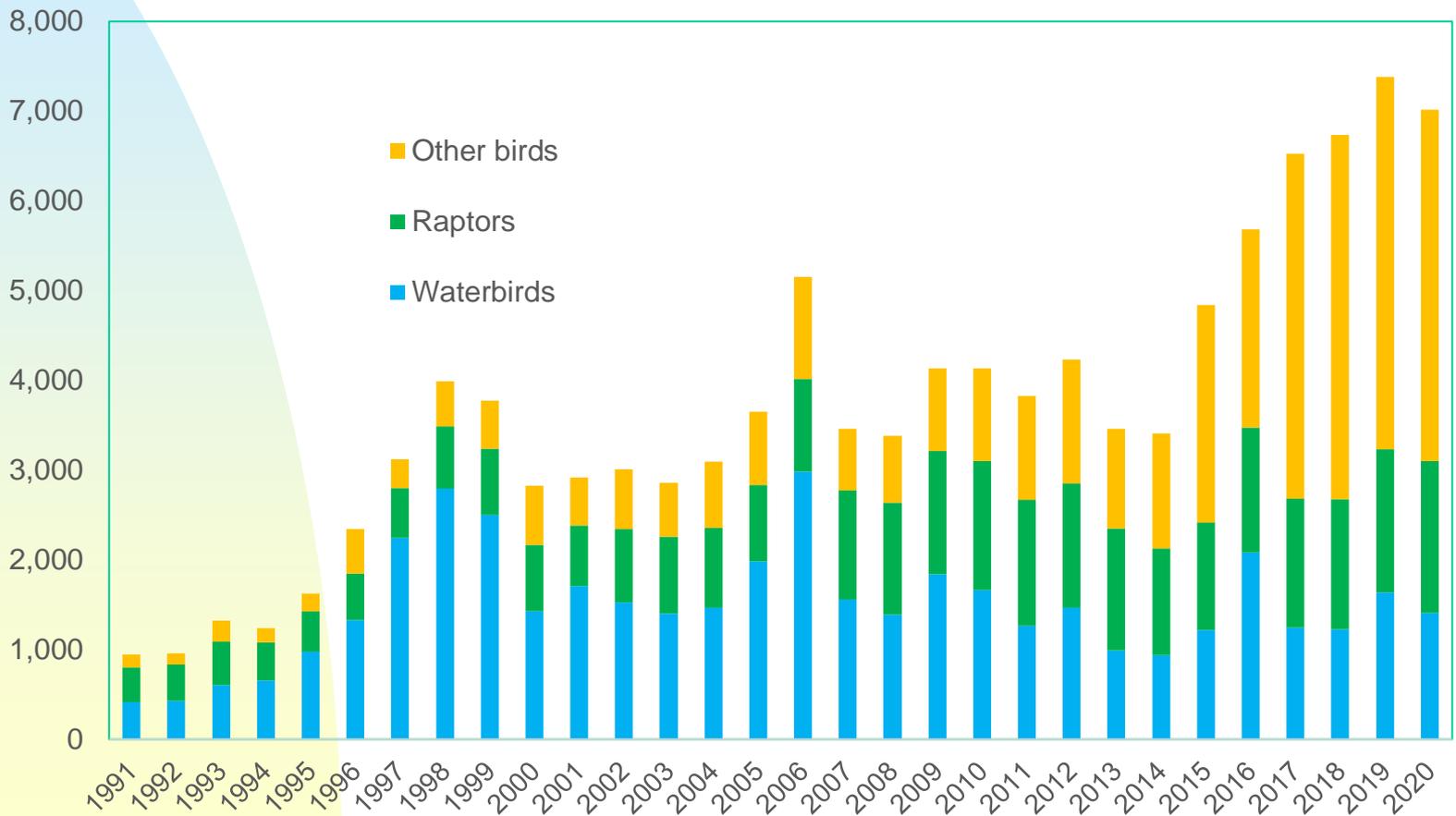
- Interviews
- Official statistics
- Banding recovery records
- Admission causes in **Wildlife Recovery Centers (WRC)**. Bias:
  - Birds founded
  - Mostly injured birds
  - .....

# WRC in Valencian region



# Birds admitted

1991-2020: 165.399 animals; 111.314 birds

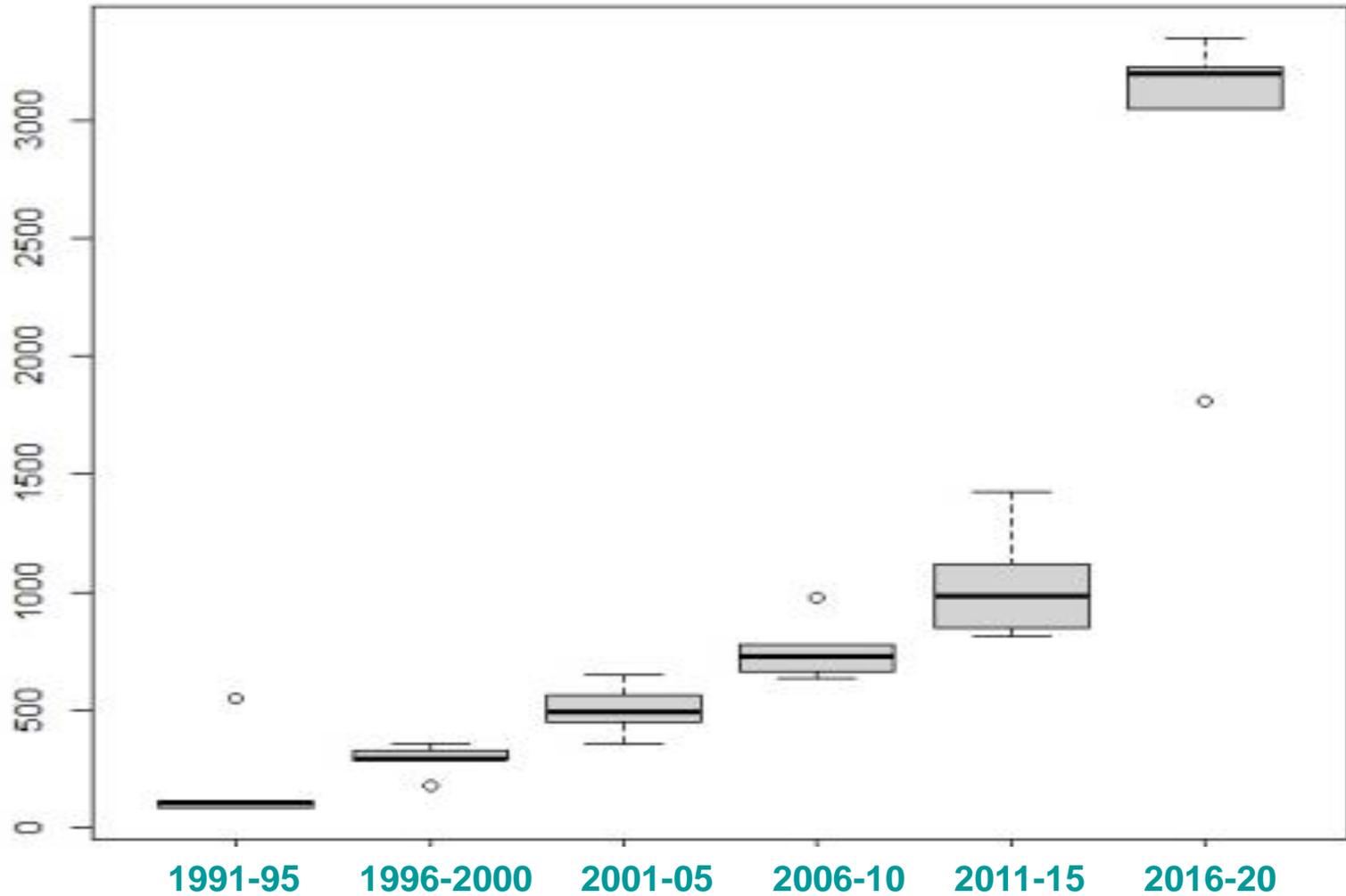


# Causes of admissions

- ❑ **Natural:** neither a direct nor an indirect human action seems to be involved (*e.g.*, orphaned young birds, malnutrition or illness, injuries or infection, caused by natural processes such as predation, inclement weather)
- ❑ **Accidental:** wildlife with injuries or death fortuitously caused by human activity such as drowning, collision, electrocution, roadkill or accidental trapping, among others;
- ❑ **Deliberate:** wildlife purposefully injured or dead by human activity, such as illegal hunting or poaching
- ❑ Intoxication
- ❑ Captive bred
- ❑ Transferred
- ❑ Undetermined

**68.995 birds**

# Natural causes



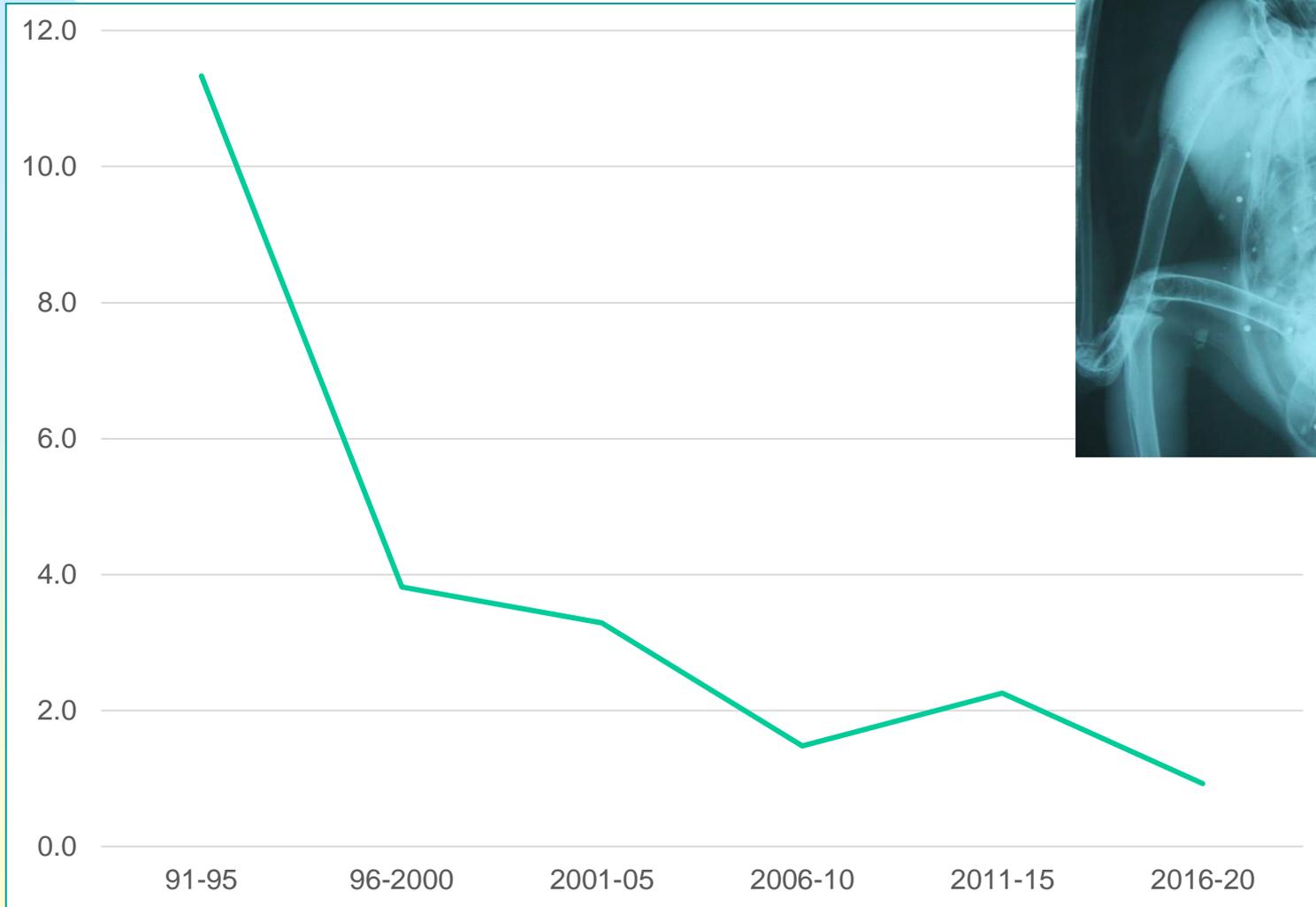
# Accidents



# Deliberate

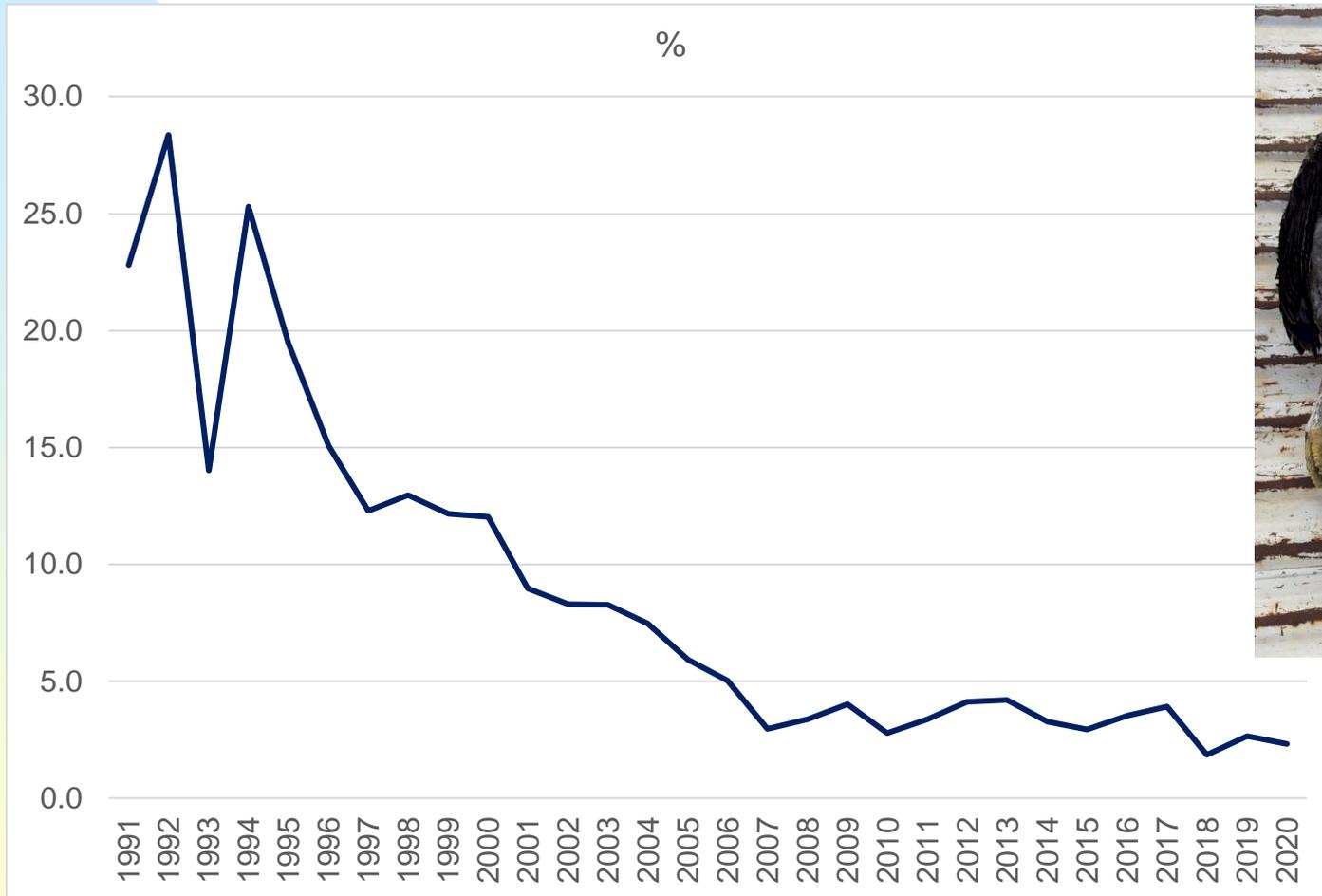


# Gun shots



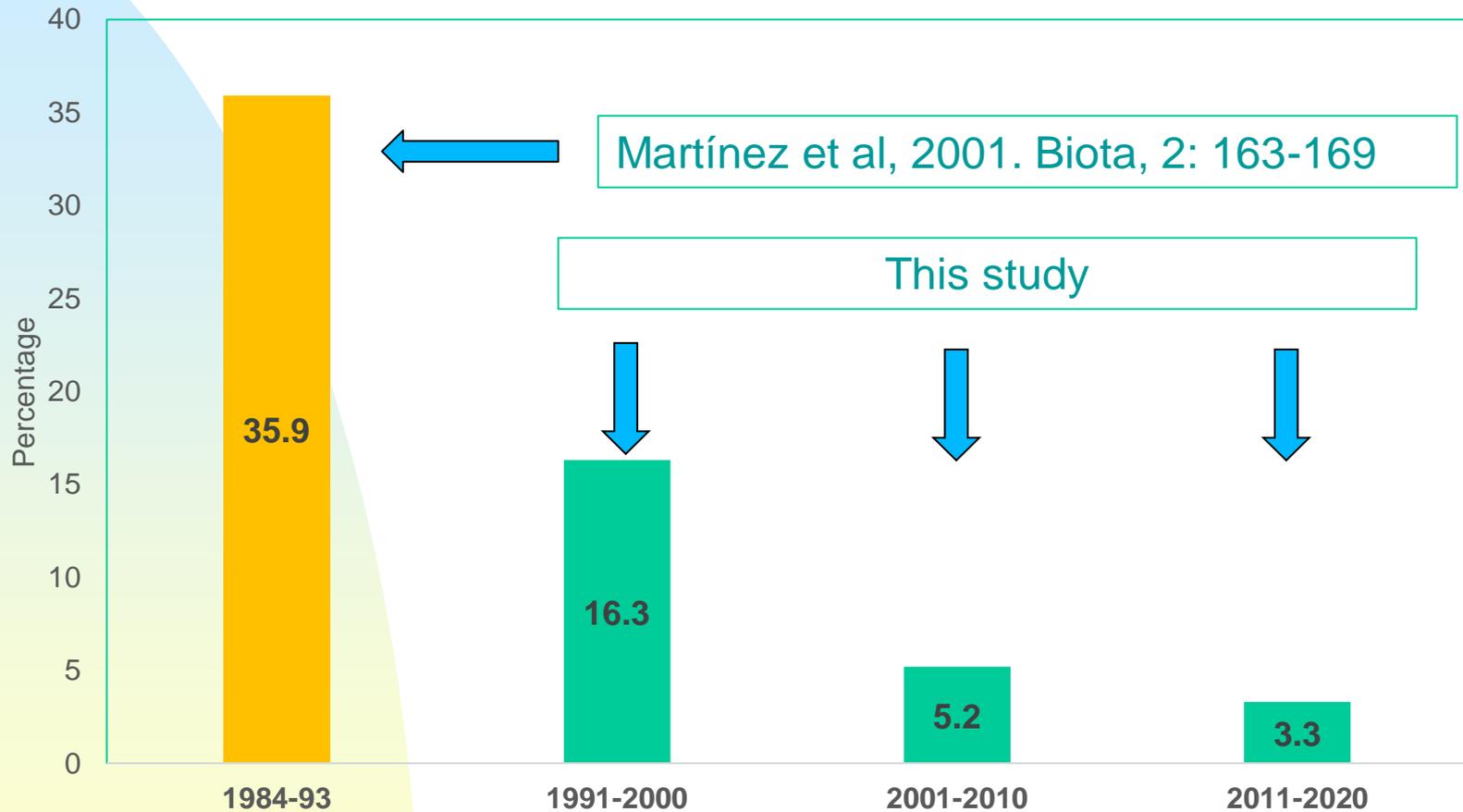
**Reduction in percentage for all birds**

# Shot raptors



**Percentage of admission plummeted**

# Longer ago



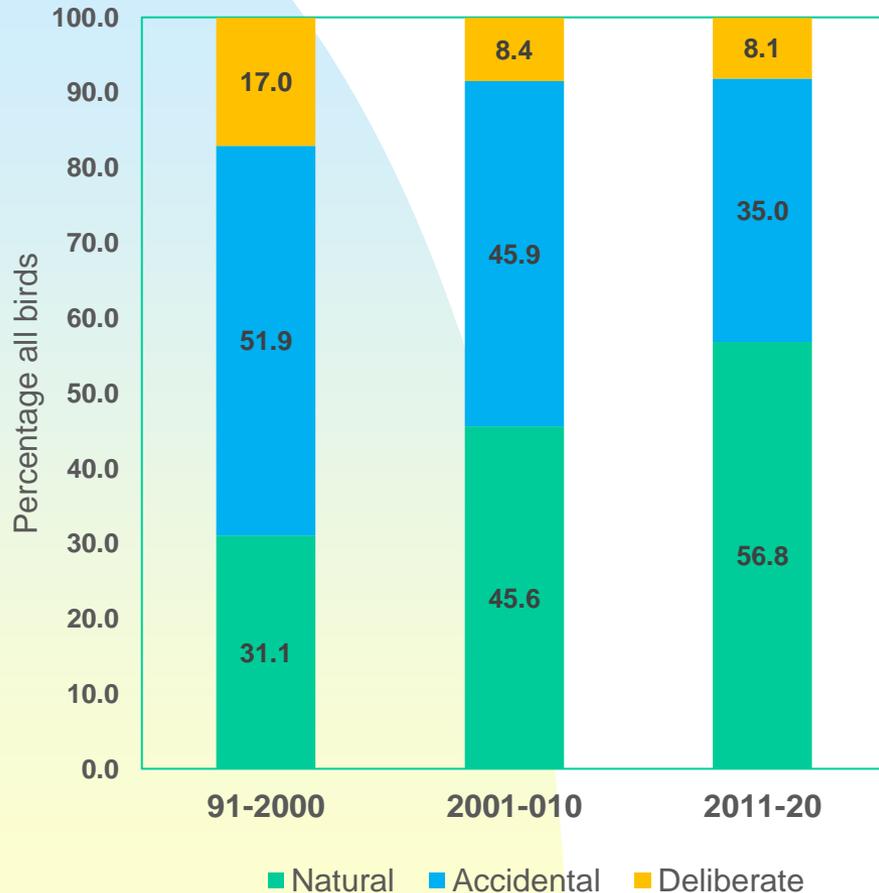
Percentage of shot raptors

# Far away

Area	Years	% shot raptors	Reference
Greece	1996-2005	60,0	Mazaris 2008
Italy (Campania)	1988-2005	44,1	Fraissinet, 2007
Greece	1997-2000	38,8	Kommenou, 2005
Spain (CValenciana)	1984-1993	35,9	Martínez, 2001
USA (Minesota)	1974-1979	21,9	Keran, 1981
Italy (Rome)	2000-2011	20,3	Cianchetti, 2016
Spain (CValenciana)	1991-2000	16,3	This study
Turkey	2017-2020	12,1	Hesna, 2021
Spain (Cataluña)	1995-2007	9,8	Molina, 2011
Canada (Quebec)	1987-1997	9,4	Desmarchelier, 2010
USA (Florida)	1988-1994	6,2	Deem, 1998
Spain (CValenciana)	2001-2010	5,2	This study
Spain (Canary Is.)	2003-2013	4,8	Montesdeoca, 2016
Canada (Quebec)	1998-2007	3,8	Desmarchelier, 2010
USA (Virginia)	1993-2002	3,7	Richard, 2005
Norway	1987-1994	3,7	Bevanger, 1998
Spain (CValenciana)	2011-2020	3,3	This study
South Africa	2015-2016	2,1	Maphalala, 2021
South Africa	2004-2011	2	Thompson, 2013
USA (Colorado)	1995-1998	1,5	Wendell, 2002
Spain (Canary Is.)	1998-2007	1,5	Rodriguez, 2010
USA (New York)	2012-2014	1,1	Hanson, 2021

## Percentage of shot raptors

# Shift in admissions reflects changes in societal attitudes towards wildlife



- ❑ **< 1990: persecution**  
(rural population)
- ❑ **1990 -2000: indifference**  
(accidents with infrastructure)
- ❑ **> 2000: active protection**  
(urban population)

*Gracias por vuestra atención*



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