

# Monitoring, and first steps to tackling illegal killing of birds



Vicky Jones – BirdLife International

# Background

- Useful baseline from review, but good to repeat at intervals
- 25 million birds estimated to be illegally killed in Mediterranean countries each year
- Need more accurate data, collected in systematic way to monitor this issue
- Very little monitoring of illegal killing underway in the Mediterranean
- Want to support BirdLife partners and others to improve this and help with tools

**CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - NOT FOR CITATION OR CIRCULATION**

## **A best practice guide for monitoring illegal killing and taking of birds**

---



Monitoring of the illegal mist-netting of birds in Cyprus © BirdLife Cyprus

BirdLife International

September 2015

# Monitoring illegal killing of birds

- **Process**

- Collect info **on protocols** currently implemented by (very few), on **challenges** and **best-practices** and on **law enforcement**
- **Drafted guidelines** for monitoring illegal killing of birds in the Med
- **Workshop** to discuss guidelines, now finishing

CMS  
AEWA  
FACE  
IMPEL



Participants to the IKB monitoring workshop © Dimitar Gradinarov



# Beyond the Med and beyond BirdLife

- Aimed primarily at and developed by BirdLife Partners in the Mediterranean, but could have **considerable relevance to other stakeholders** and other regions
- If content useful to government and other stakeholders, we could consider how best to share it, adapt it etc. for use by Raptors MoU or wider CMS stakeholders
- BirdLife will be piloting the use of the guidelines with BirdLife partners in the Mediterranean

# Best Practice Guide

- Build on the experiences of Mediterranean BirdLife Partners
- Facilitate expansion of monitoring, increase the robustness of existing schemes, and support the development of a more coordinated approach
- Encourages systematic monitoring, results comparable between years and areas
- Principle elements of each aspect of a monitoring scheme illustrated by a series of case studies

# Overview

The Guide:

1. Provides a **checklist of the minimum steps** that should be considered in monitoring the illegal killing and taking of birds.
2. Presents relevant **sampling design and survey method considerations**.
3. Presents **overarching considerations** related to monitoring of illegal killing and taking of birds.
4. Describes **recommended methods** and **detailed case studies with examples of protocols** currently implemented by BirdLife Partners.
5. Provides **information on how to train, enthuse and communicate with a network of surveyors**.
6. Highlights some of the opportunities and considerations for using the monitoring data for **advocacy and communication**
7. Lists some of the **key references and relevant sources of additional information**.

# Contents of best practice guide

## ▪ Contents¶

Executive Summary .....	2¶
Citation .....	2¶
Acknowledgements .....	3¶
1. → Introduction.....	6¶
1.1. → Aim of the Best Practice Guide.....	6¶
1.2. → Defining illegal killing and taking of birds and the need for monitoring.....	6¶
1.3. → Overarching considerations for schemes that monitor the illegal killing of birds .....	7¶
2. → Survey design.....	11¶
2.1. → Monitoring goal and objectives.....	12¶
2.2. → Direct or indirect measures?.....	12¶
2.3. → Survey boundaries .....	13¶
2.4. → Census or sample? .....	13¶
2.5. → Sampling strategy .....	13¶
2.6. → Field methods.....	16¶
2.7. → Reliability: accuracy, precision and bias .....	17¶
2.8. → Analysis.....	18¶

Continued.....

# Contents of best practice guide

3.	Implementation on the ground .....	19
3.1.	Recruiting surveyors and maintaining involvement .....	19
3.2.	Training surveyors.....	20
3.3.	Security .....	21
3.4.	Supporting materials.....	22
4.	Collecting data on illegal killing of birds .....	26
4.1.	Direct or indirect measures?.....	26
4.2.	'Visible' or 'undercover' monitoring .....	27
4.3.	Monitoring illegal shooting of birds.....	27
4.4.	Monitoring illegal trapping of birds .....	32
4.5.	Monitoring illegal poisoning of birds .....	35
4.6.	Monitoring the illegal bird market trade .....	39
4.7.	Monitoring illegal activities through socioeconomic study .....	42
4.8.	Recording casual data on illegal killing from different sources .....	47
5.	Analysing and managing information on illegal killing of birds .....	49
5.1.	Data management .....	49
5.2.	Data analysis .....	51
6.	Communicating results of monitoring illegal killing of birds .....	57

Continued.....



# Contents of best practice guide

## Contents

---

6.1.	Communication challenges and opportunities .....	57
6.2.	National, regional and global fora where illegal killing monitoring data are useful .....	58
7.	Suggested reading and further sources of information.....	60
7.1.	Guidelines for bird monitoring schemes, survey design, fieldwork methods and analysis ..	60
7.2.	Literature on illegal killing of birds.....	60
7.3.	Relevant contacts within the BirdLife Partnership .....	63

# Case studies

- **Case study: Monitoring illegal mist-nets in Cyprus**
- *Tassos Shialis (BirdLife Cyprus)*
- **Survey area and sampling strategy**
- Trapping surveillance occurs in two areas identified as the worst for illegal trapping in Cyprus; Famagusta/Eastern Larnaca and Ayios Theodoros-Maroni area. The total survey area is 406 km<sup>2</sup> and each grid square is classified as either a 'possible bird trapping area' or 'unlikely bird trapping area', based solely on the presence or absence of vegetation suitable for setting lime-sticks or mist-nets. Monitoring is undertaken in the 'possible' squares only (301 squares). Each autumn (since 2002) and spring (since 2004), a sample of squares are surveyed. The random sample is stratified to ensure representative coverage of areas under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus and British Sovereign Base Area, as well as "joint" squares where the two jurisdictions meet.
- Monitoring is undertaken by a two-man team that systematically searches for evidence of illegal trapping activity activity in the survey squares. The time taken to survey each square is recorded, as are weather patterns and the presence or absence of large numbers of migrant birds.
- For safety reasons, the surveyors do not go out in the field at dawn, which is the main period of trapping activity, but carry out surveys between 09:00 and 17:00. Each sample square is surveyed only once each season.
- **Mist-netting activity monitoring**
- The survey team carries out a thorough search of all habitat patches that are suitable for the setting of mist-nets (i.e. all areas with bushes and/or trees) within each survey square. The surveyors record all direct and indirect evidence of mist-net and tape-lure use and of net-ride preparation and use (e.g. cleared corridors within vegetation for putting up nets, presence of pole bases) and calculate the total length of active net rides recorded within the survey area. The codes used for the various categories of mist-netting activity and tape-lure use are given in Table

# Glossary of trap types



Horsehair snares used in France © CABS



Stone crush trap in Dalmatia (Croatia) © BIOM

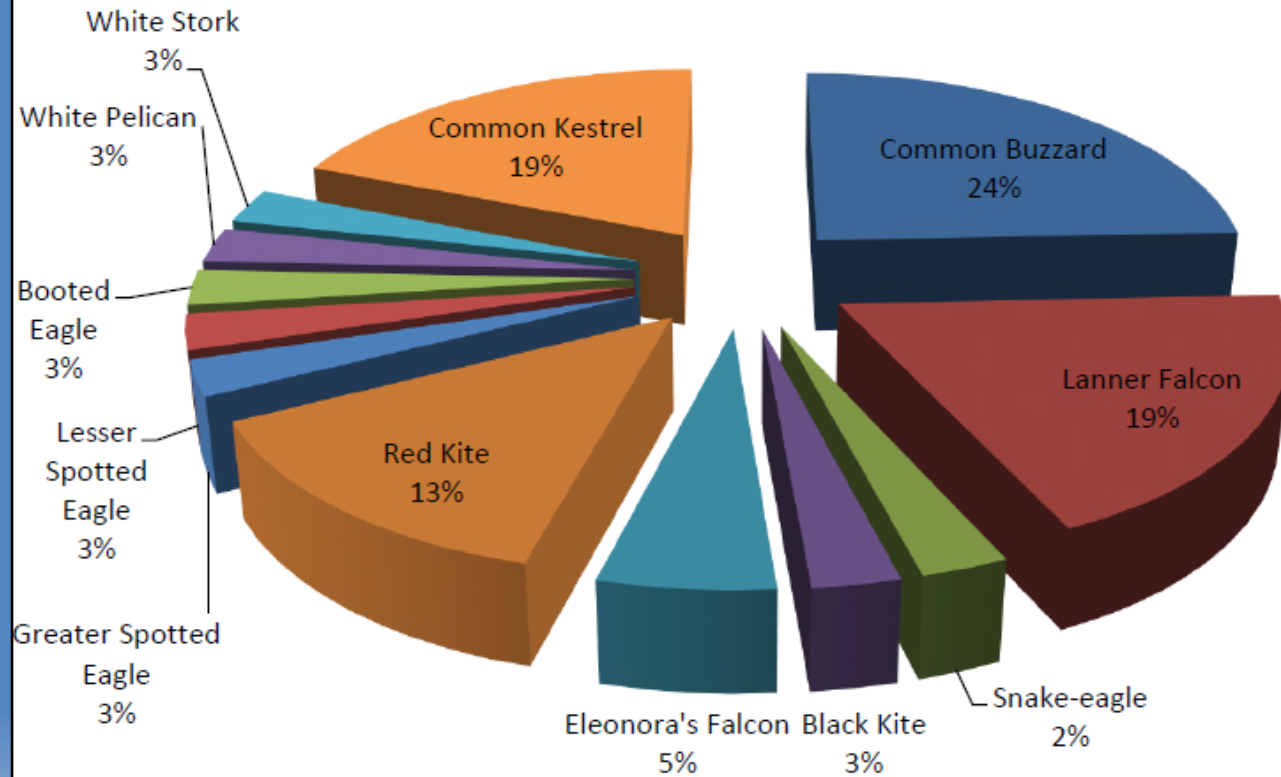


Snap trap used in South Italian coast © CABS

# Useful experience and case studies could be gathered from others including government

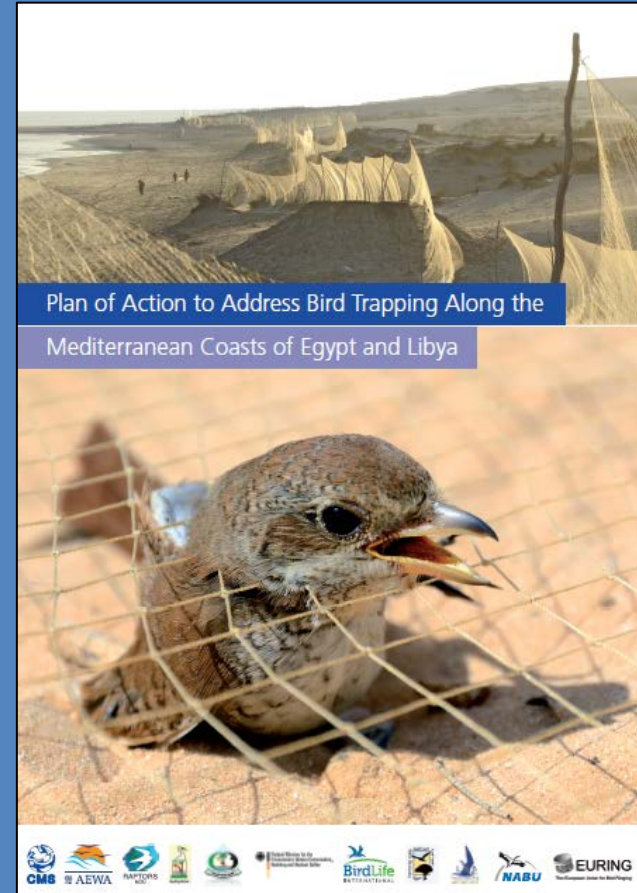


## Sold MSB in the Lebanese Market between September and March 2013/2014



# National/ regional Action Plans to tackle illegal killing and taking

- Development of a monitoring strategy can sit within broader Action Plan to guide action to tackle illegal killing and taking at national level
- Useful framework within which all relevant stakeholders can be identified and brought together and their potential contributions identified
- CMS and AEWA have supported development of a Plan of Action for Egypt and Libya



# Developing a strategy to monitor illegal killing and taking of birds in Egypt

