

KEEPING THE FLYWAYS SAFE

The BirdLife Partnership presents this review based on the first ever comprehensive scientific study to quantify the scale and scope of illegal killing across the Mediterranean region. The results are gruesome. Despite legal protection, illegal bird killing is taking place at quite extraordinary and unsustainable levels. While many turn a blind eye, an estimated 25 million birds are being illegally massacred annually.

In some countries such as Cyprus, Syria and Egypt, more than two million birds are illegally shot, glued or trapped each year. The report identifies three individual locations – the Famagusta area in Cyprus, the Menbej-Tishreen Dam area in Syria and the El Manzala area in Egypt – where, staggeringly, more than half a million birds are being illegally slaughtered each year.

Populations of 40 different migratory songbird species that were once abundant in Europe are declining and some are now in free-fall. Many have already disappeared from much of their former range.

European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) has declined by 30% throughout Europe since the start of the millennium and in some countries by as much as 90% in the same period. Yet more than one million are still illegally killed each year.

Our birds deserve safer flyways. To tackle these threats, our conservation efforts need to be scaled up at the worst locations we have identified, coupled with effective and well-coordinated local, regional and national advocacy.

We invite you to share the information in this review so we can all prevent the future of these birds ending in nets, glued to branches or illegally shot for fun. The BirdLife Partnership is committed to making the Mediterranean a safer place for birds, biodiversity and people. Join the cause!

Patricia Zurita
BirdLife International, CEO

Download the full report
and find out how you can help at
www.birdlife.org/illegal-killing

The data presented in this report were gathered by BirdLife Partners and experts in 26 Mediterranean countries during the period 2014-2015. The numbers presented represent the best estimates based on available data, and the associated uncertainty is quantified in a scientific paper underpinning this report, soon available online. Here, we discuss in more detail the situation in the 10 countries with the highest numbers of illegally killed birds. On the country maps, we highlighted the 3 worst locations for the top 5 countries.



THE KILLING

Unlawfully shot, trapped or glued.
Every year around 25 million birds are slaughtered
in the Mediterranean. Read our first review
of illegal killing of birds in the region

THE MAP OF ILLEGAL KILLING

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

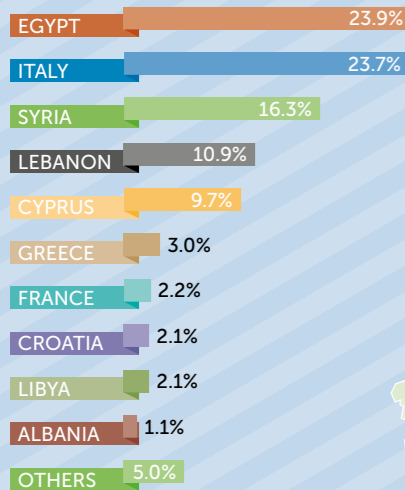
TOTAL BIRDS ILLEGALLY KILLED

MILLION PER YEAR

13 MIN 25 MEAN 37 MAX



BY COUNTRY



BY FAMILY

PIGEONS, DOVES 0.7 MILLION



SONGBIRDS 20.1 MILLION



RAPTORS 0.1 MILLION



WATERBIRDS 1 MILLION



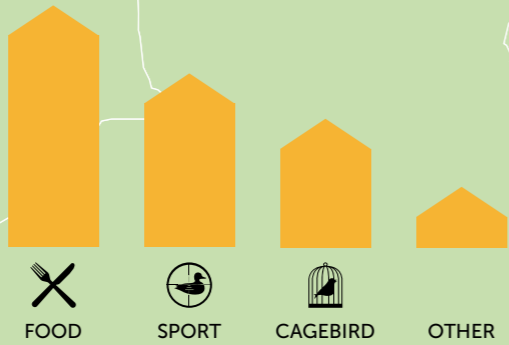
OTHERS 1.8 MILLION

UNIT OF MEASURE

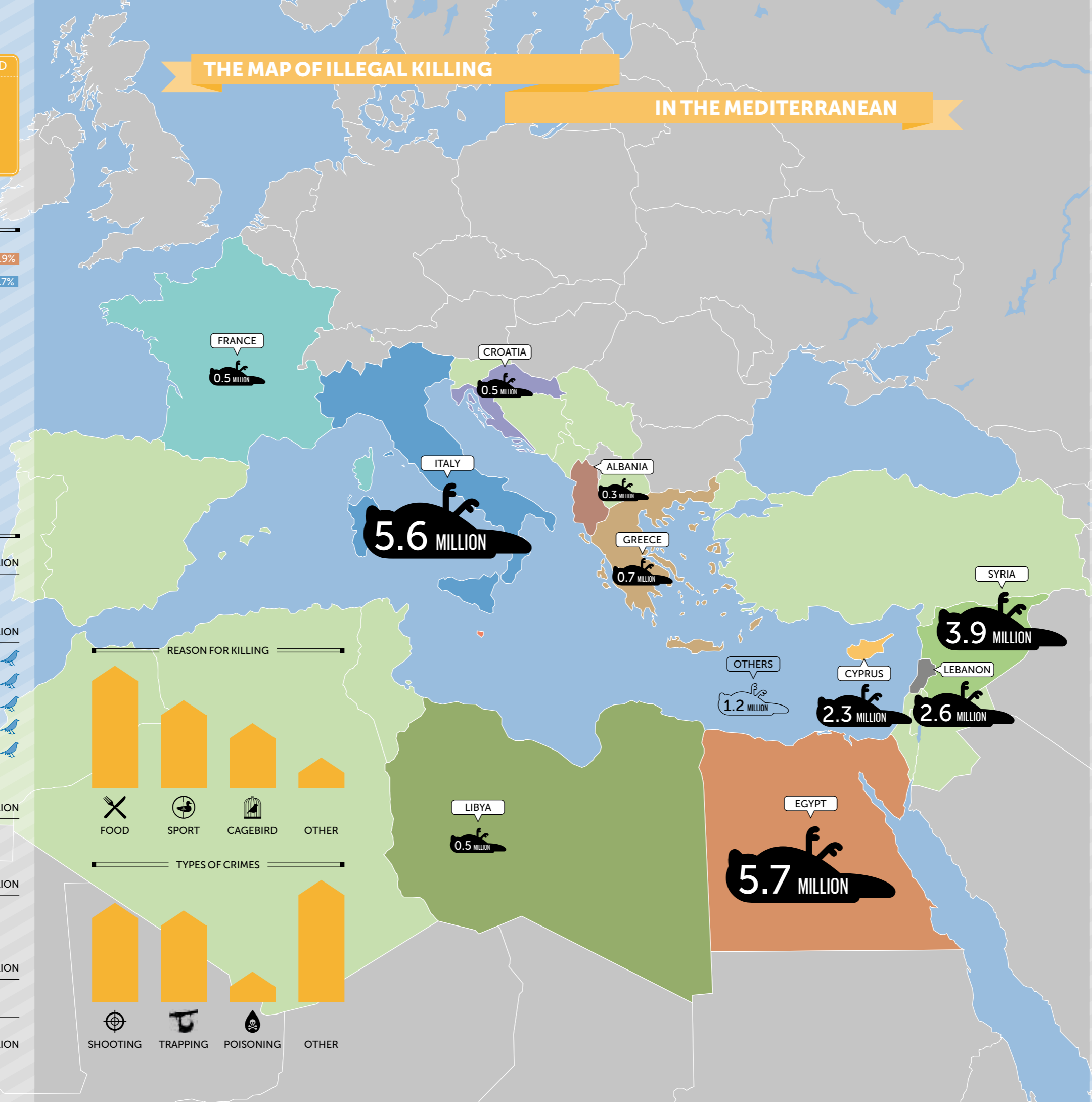


0.5 MILLION

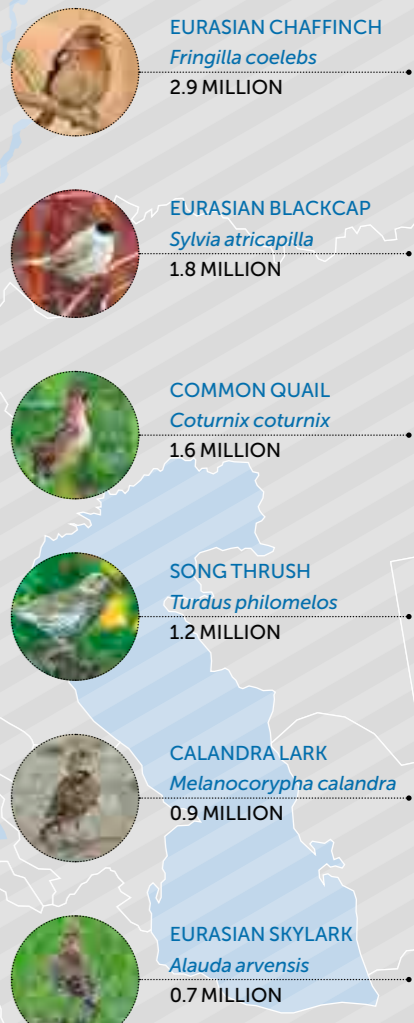
REASON FOR KILLING



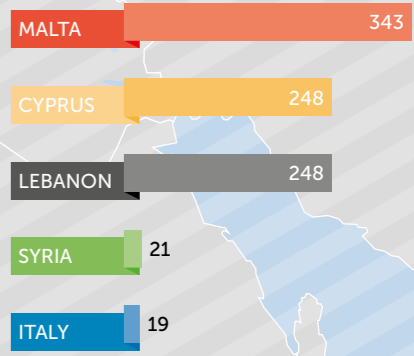
TYPES OF CRIMES



MOST AFFECTED SPECIES



BY INTENSITY*



* Mean estimated number of birds illegally killed per km² every year.

NOTE All numbers in the map are mean best estimates, for further details and minimum/maximum estimates, see the scientific paper: Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean (Brochet et al., in revision).