

# 2011 NEWS

## THE RED KITE AND BROMADIOLONE: AN ANNOUNCED MASSACRE!

**Within one month, 22 raptors, including the highly endangered red kite, were found dead in Auvergne in plots treated with bromadiolone.** The LPO



denounces the use of this anticoagulant poison which has all too well-known effects on the entire fauna, and it requires the treatment be stopped/suspended in areas frequently used by this raptor. Download [the full press release](#) (in French) from the LPO France of Wednesday, 30 November.

## HUNDREDS OF RED KITES IN DANGER IN AUVERGNE AFTER A POISONING CAMPAIGN

Between 300 and 400 red kites from various origins, from Germany and Burgundy, Auvergne or England get poisoned slowly in a wide area extending from the south of the mountain range of the Puy to the High Combrailles (Auvergne). The LPO network reports the discovery of 10 corpses of red kites and 5 of buzzards, with typical symptoms (eg. Signs of bleeding, blood in feces ...).

## FIVE RED KITES KILLED BY BROMADIOLONE IN BRIFFONS (63)

On the 4th November, 5 red kites were found dead in the district of Briffons (63), as a result of a poisoning campaign with bromadiolone against the water voles.

Already during last spring, half of the breeding pairs in the mountain range of the “puy” had disappeared after such a poisoning campaign!

The individuals found dead at that time were sent to the Veterinary Laboratory of Lyons for analysis, but unfortunately the corpses were too decomposed to get conclusive results.

## ANOTHER RED KITE FROM FRANCHE-COMTÉ FOUND DEAD IN SPAIN !



Another red kite from Franche-Comté was found dead in mid-November in Spain (province of Castile y Leon), not far away from the place of death of the other bird from Franche-Comté fitted with Argos transmitters in 2007.

To date, poisoning (probably deliberate and illegal) is once again the identified cause of death.

## 34TH FRENCH SPEAKING CONFERENCE OF ORNITHOLOGY



The 34th French-speaking Conference of Ornithology will take place in Paris on December 10th and 11th 2011 on the international campus.

The [programme](#) includes six sessions: Forest, swallows, overseas, conservation, studies and surveys, then the future.

## SAY NO TO THE CRUISER INSECTICIDE!

French beekeepers are on the streets to say no to the CRUISER insecticide! No to the neonicotinoid insecticides which kill bees!

**A national day of action** will be organised **against the Cruiser** in Paris on Friday, 14th October and in several French regions on Saturday 15th October.

Read more [here](#)

**La Mission rapaces**

## RECORDING MIGRATIONS OVER THE BASQUE COUNTRY

The 2011 recording of birds migrating over the Organbidexka and Lindux passes in the Basque country has started again on July 15. The first Red Kites were observed on their way to Spain where they will winter. As of September 15, Red Kites will also be counted on the more western Lizarieta site. You can follow day-by-day recordings on this link:

<http://www.migraction.net/>



You can also help counting the birds on the sites. In addition to being an enriching personal experience this is a way to contribute improving scientific knowledge on migration. All observers are welcome and no previous counting experience is required. This is a friendly moment to share with bird lovers from all over Europe. You can ask [Jean-Paul Urcun](#) for a sign up form.

**LPO Aquitaine**

## ANOTHER CASUALTY AMONG RED KITES



In Brittany, another Red Kite was found dead last August. The wing tags fitted on the bird showed it was coming from Britain. An autopsy and some toxicology tests are on their way. The carcass shows some characteristics usually associated with an electrocution.

**Guy Joncour**

## A SWISS RED KITE ELECTROCUTED IN SPAIN



A Red Kite that had been fitted with a GPS transmitter in Switzerland in 2010 and named Bellu died last April in northern Spain. When the transmitter stopped sending information, Adrian Aebischer alerted Spanish workfellows who discovered the dead bird after some search. The bird had been electrocuted. Some action is under way to neutralize the deadly pylon.

**Adrian Aebischer**

### ILLEGAL KILLINGS OF BIRDS PROVED TO HAPPEN IN EUROPE !

From the 6th to the 8th of July, a European conference on the illegal destruction of wild birds, organized by the Bern Convention and the Cyprus government took place in Cyprus. There, Birdlife International has provided compelling evidence on some illegal practices in use in 38 European states. Far from being spared, France has a sad record in the poaching Ortolan Buntings and other finches, poisoning of Red Kites, and destruction of harriers' nests. This meeting is a reminder that those crimes go largely unpunished and that such practices belonging to the past must stop!

Documents:

- [Communiqué de presse](#) (pdf in French)
- [Birdlife Report on the illegal destruction of birds in Europe](#)

Original text : **Allain Bougrain-Dubourg, Président of LPO**

### ABOUT THE PENDING ACTION PLANS IN FAVOR OF THE GRIFFON VULTURE

As the Ministry of Ecology and ONCFS were presenting their 1st draft of an action plan in favor of the Griffon Vulture, LPO, with the support of several nature conservation organizations, has stated its own position on why and how to protect the species. The arguments are concealed in a detailed document that also states an action plan possibly to be used as the main guidelines for regional conservation. Part of the document aims at informing on the services paid by these birds in the wild, as well as give insight on the impact and scale of some vultures' behaviors affecting domestic livestock.

Do not hesitate to spread and use this document ([PDF in French](#)).

**Pascal Orabi**

### NEWSLETTER "MILAN INFO" N°22 & 23

The last number of the Milan info Newsletter is now available (Awareness rubric).

**La LPO Mission Rapaces**

### NEWS FROM RED KITES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Here are the latest news of the reintroduction program of the Red Kite in Northern Ireland (in English).

Note that the RSPB is looking for one person for the second phase of this program.

**Robert Straughan, RSPB Northern Ireland**

### PUBLICATION OF THE RED LIST OF BIRDS OF FRANCE

The French Committee of IUCN publishes today the Red List of birds of France. This document outlines the risk of extinction for breeding, migratory and wintering birds in France. Red Lists are coordinated in France by IUCN and MNHN. LPO, SEOF and ONCFS were associated.

More info [here](#).

**La Mission Rapaces**

## NO MORE INFORMATION ON A YOUNG RED KITE FROM SWITZERLAND

Our Swiss colleagues have not more information on a young Red Kite, named Bellu, equipped with an Argos GPS. The latest satellite data indicates that the bird stopped at the end of April in northern Spain. The Spanish colleagues have been alerted to try to find the body and the tag, and possibly determine the cause of death of the Red kite.

**Adrian Aebischer**

## A RED KITE SHOOTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DOUBS

The incident took place on Monday, April 4th in the town of Nods in the department of Doubs. Alerted by a farmer, a technician of the federation of hunters discovered a wounded Red Kite (compound fracture of the left humerus). Shooting will be quickly confirmed: a 22 LR bullet went through the wing and the left leg.

LPO and the French network deplore these illegal acts that destroy their efforts to try to save this species. LPO Franche-Comte hoped that sanctions will be taken against the perpetrator of this criminal act (punishable by imprisonment for one year and 15 000 euro fine under Article L. 415-3 of the Code of the environment.

**LPO Mission Rapaces**

## MORE AND MORE DEAD RED KITES

Since the beginning of the year, nine dead red kites have been found, probably victims of poisoning. Although toxicology tests performed on 9 cadavers are not yet available, autopsies performed on seven of them have already revealed a lesion compatible with poisoning by convulsants including inhibitors cholinesterase (products used as insecticides and molluscicides). These bodies have been discovered in Moselle (2 cases), Alsace (2 cases), Haute-Marne (1 case), Aveyron (1 case), Lozère (1 case) and Franche-Comte (2 cases).

We remind you that any Red kite body (found in France) is subject to autopsy and toxicology tests. Upon discovery, thank you to inform LPO Mission Rapaces ([fabienne.david@lpo.fr](mailto:fabienne.david@lpo.fr)).

**La Mission Rapaces**

## POISONING CAMPAIGNS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HAUTE-MARNE

Poisoning campaigns (rodents) intended to fight voles begin today in thirty municipalities of Haute-Marne in the SPA including the Bassigny. This type of treatment can cause mortality of non-target species (raptors, carnivores), poisoned by eating poisoned voles.

Red Kite is particularly concerned and even more when breeding pairs are on their nesting area.

We therefore ask all observers attending the Haute-Marne to be vigilant and to report any suspicious death (kites and others). Every body will be examined. Since the treatments are prohibited beyond a certain threshold of the density of voles and poisoned baits must be buried, we also ask observers to report the implementation of treatment in heavily infested plots and the presence of wheat blue at the soil surface.

List of municipalities involved: Andilly Aujeurres, Avrecourt, Breuvannes-en-Bassigny, Briaucourt, Celles-en-Bassigny, Celsoy, Changey, Daillecourt, Dammartin-sur-Meuse, Germainvilliers, Humes, Is-en-Bassigny, Lavernoy the Chatelet-sur-Meuse, the Val d'Esnoms, Longeau-Percey, Marcilly, Merrey, Neuilly Bishop, Walnut, Orbigny-au-Val, Plesnoy, Prangey, Ranconniere, Saulxures, Saint-Michel, Troischamp, Val-de Meuse, Vicq, Villars-Santenoge, Violot.

Apart from these cities, poisoning is not allowed.

LPO Champagne-Ardenne has sent a letter to the Prefect.

For any questions: [aymeric.mionnet@lpo.fr](mailto:aymeric.mionnet@lpo.fr)

### **LPO Champagne-Ardenne**

#### **JANUARY 2011: AFTER SHOOTING, POISONING!**

This time it is the body of a Red Kite which was probably poisoned that LPO Alsace discovered this month. This kite is not the only victim, as many dead buzzards were also found. Baits were found near the bodies!

An autopsy and toxicology tests are underway.

ONCFS has been notified and a complaint will be filed by LPO Alsace.

It is regrettable that such actions against birds of prey persist in France. These illegal acts destroy the efforts of the Red Kite Network to try to save the species and France has a major responsibility for its preservation.

### **LPO Alsace**

#### **JANUARY 2011: ONE MORE RED KITE SHOOTED !**

There is no doubt that Red Kites continue to be the target of hunters!

A Red Kite has been recovered shot near a roosting place in the department of Tarn. Its left wing was wounded and the bird was sent to the LPO care center in Tarn. Whether it will be released is uncertain.

The ONCFS has been informed and a complaint will be filed by LPO Tarn.

Remember that the destruction of a protected species, such as the Red Kite, is constitutive of an offense according to Articles L-411-1-L 411-2 of the Code of the environment. It is punishable under Article L 415-3, and the guilty parties are liable to a sentence of one year imprisonment and a 10,000 euros fine.

### **LPO Tarn**

#### **SIMULTANEOUS COUNTING OF WINTERING RED KITES**

The next simultaneous counting of wintering Red kites will take place on 8 & 9 January 2011.

If you have a question, thank you to contact Romain Riols or Fabienne David.

Thank you for your commitment!

#### **A RED KITE SHOOTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MEUSE**

At the beginning of October, a Red Kite was discovered lying in Sorcy Saint-Martin (Meuse) by an officer of the National forestry Office. It was deposited in the care center of Dudelage but had to be euthanized. The bird had two bullet holes in the wing.

These acts destroy the efforts of the network to try to save the species. This is why LPO filed a complaint against X for destructing protected species.

### **La Mission Rapaces**

#### **A MOVIE ON RED KITE**

While the latest census of red kites in the Massif Central region shows the decline in wintering of the species, LPO has made a movie dedicated to this species:

"The Kite: The Story of a restoration."

Since 2002, the association has been involved in the national Action Plan. Advocating for the species, informing, studies ... are some of the actions implemented to preserve this majestic bird of prey, which is a symbol of the Massif Central. This film is part of the restoration program for this critically endangered species. Raising awareness among different stakeholders (elected officials, local decision makers, farmers, the general

public...) as to the important role they can play in protecting the Red Kite, this is a major goal of this production.

- 24 months of implementation (C. & L. Charbonnier Bouchardy)
- 8 departments: Ardèche, Aveyron, Cantal, Corrèze, Haute-Loire, Loire, Lozère, and Puy-de-Dôme
- 5 regions: Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées and Rhône-Alpes

The film was officially presented on Wednesday, November 24, in conjunction with the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Auvergne.

The press published the event:

- <http://www.radio-totem.net/actualite/journal/puy-de-dome/article-33292-allain-bougrain-dubourg-presente-un-film-a-lempdes/?page=&filtre=all>

- [http://www.auvergne.info/environnement/le-milan-royal-un-souverain-a-proteger\\_1.html](http://www.auvergne.info/environnement/le-milan-royal-un-souverain-a-proteger_1.html)

**LPO Auvergne**

## INTERIM ASSESSMENT OF THE MIGRATION OF THE KITE IN JURA

Monitoring of the Red Kite postnuptial migration has been going on daily since the start of the season in two areas in the department of Jura: Pont-de-Roide (Doubs) and Défilé de l'Ecluse (01/74) .

At this time, the financial staff has announced the largest number ever followed in the region. National importance.

October 27th: Pont de Roide (Doubs): 3 608 Red kites.

Défilé de l'Ecluse (Ain / Haute-Savoie): 4 771 Red kites.

Total: 8 379 Red Kites! This year as every year we have noticed that almost "none" of these kites spent the winter in these areas.

**Jean-Philippe Paul, LPO Franche-Comté**

## OCTOBER 2010: MORE AND MORE CARCASSES

In October, six dead Red kites were found:

- One in the department of Lot. Poisoning is very likely;
- One in the department of Meuse. The bird was a victim of lead and had to be euthanized;
- One in the department of Aveyron. It is likely that the bird was hit by a vehicle;
- Two in the department of Gironde. Both victims of lead, one was taken to a care center (fracture of the ulna), the other did not recover. It is likely that it died because of its injuries.
- One in the department of Haute-Garonne. The X-ray revealed the presence of lead shot. Surgery for a fracture was undergone but the future of the bird is uncertain.

Toxicology tests are underway to determine the exact cause of death of these birds.

These unlawful acts are unacceptable. They destroy the efforts of the Red Kite network to try to save this endangered species.

Remember that France has the second world population of this species. It has a heavy responsibility for the conservation of this species.

Also remember that all birds of prey are protected in France. Their destruction is punishable by a 15,000 euros fine and one year imprisonment.

**La Mission rapaces**

## MIGRATION OF A YOUNG RED KITE IN MOROCCO

The young Red Kite marked Maho (from Switzerland) was seen in Andalusia at the end of September and spent two nights 5 km east of Jimena de la Frontera (approx. 25 km north of Gibraltar). Then it flew over Tarifa, crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and arrived the same evening in the western part of the Rif. The next day, after flying over 300 km, he went through Ksar el-Kebir and Tiflet into the Zaele Zaianf (approx. 150 km southeast of Casablanca). This is one of the longest ever recorded daily flights for a Red Kite. Maho then returned to the north. He slept in Wadi Sebu (about 50 km north of Meknes) before returning to the northern tip of Morocco.

Then, after this short visit to Morocco, it turned back and returned to Spain. It first left north of Algeciras Bay before heading west to Jerez de la Frontera. Since then, it has been staying around Arcos de la Frontera, about 40 km northeast of Cadiz.

More information on : <http://www2.fr.ch/mhn/>

### **Museum d'histoire naturelle de Fribourg**

#### **OCTOBER 2010 : NEW FEEDING AREA IN CÔTE-D'OR**

A new feeding area was installed in Bourgogne by EPOB on land graciously left available by the municipality of Commarin (21, Aixois). Atac supermarket from Pouilly-en-Auxois (21) is a partner in the project by providing free meat from October to March.

This feeding area is the third one in the region, after those of Flavigny-sur-Ozerain (21) and Sauvigny-le-Bois (89). Only the latter is in a rubbish dump and close to a regular roosting area, the other two being located in the breeding area and away from rubbish dumps. A fourth and final feeding area is planned for late 2011.

These structures are integrated directly to the regional action plan.

**Thomas Maurice, EPOB**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2010 : A NEW FEEDING AREA IN HAUTE-MARNE (NORTH-EAST)**

A new feeding area has been built in Haute-Marne, in the commune of Saint-Loup-sur Aujon.

**Bernard Theveny, LPO Champagne-Ardenne**

#### **AUGUST 2010: RED KITE RELEASED IN THE HAUTE-LOIRE DEPARTMENT**

After a collision with a vehicle in the commune of Polignac, a red kite was taken in and sent to a care center. As a result of the treatment it received, the bird was able to be released just over a month after the accident. The operation was followed and published in the press. Read the article [here](#).

Many thanks to the two people who had the terrific idea of collecting the bird and informing LPO Auvergne. Further thanks to LPO Auvergne and its care center for acting so quickly.

**La Mission Rapaces**

#### **APRIL 2010: NO FEWER THAN FIVE RED KITE CARCASSES**

Since the start of 2010, no fewer than five red kite carcasses have been discovered in France (two in Alsace, two in Aveyron and one in the Ardennes). Autopsies and toxicology reports are underway to ascertain the causes of the birds' deaths. For at least two of them, poisoning has been suggested as a possibility.

**La Mission Rapaces**

#### **FEBRUARY 2010: RED KITE RELEASED IN THE PYRENEES**

On Friday 5th February, another red kite was taken in by the Hegalaldia care clinic. Found in the Mendiome commune (in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department), the bird showed signs of poisoning. After appropriate treatment, the red kite was able to be released a few days later.

**Source : Laurence Goyeneche, Hegalaldia**

## FEBRUARY 2010: RED KITE RELEASED IN THE AVEYRON DEPARTMENT



In September 2009, a resident took in an adult red kite that was found injured near Marvejols (in the Lozère department). The National Office for Hunting and Wild Fauna in Lozère subsequently transferred the bird to the Causses Regional Centre for Wild Fauna in Millau. Tests showed that the bird had lead shot in its right wing and neck. The Millau clinic treated the bird, feeding it and readapting it to flight in a specially made large cage. After staying at the clinic for over four months of treatment and observation, the red kite finally returned to freedom when it was released on Thursday 4th February in the Sainte-Radegonde commune near Rodez. It soon took to the sky above the Aveyron department. The commune where the red kite was released was deliberately chosen in order to enable the bird to find fellow red kites quickly, as there is a major winter roost near Sainte-Radegonde that is home to over 200 of the birds.

Remember that killing a protected species like the red kite constitutes a crime under sections L-411-1 and L-411-2 of the French Environmental Code. It is forbidden under section L-415-3, with culprits risking a six-month prison term and a €9,000 fine.

**Samuel Talhoet, LPO Aveyron**