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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL  
HABITATS

**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS**  
**Larnaca, Cyprus (6-8 July)**

**REVIEW OF THE ILLEGAL KILLING AND**  
**TRAPPING OF BIRDS IN EUROPE**

**A report by the BirdLife Partnership**



July 2011



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# **Executive Summary**

## A. Introduction

The mortality by hunting (both legal and illegal killing and trapping) on migratory birds is an important threat and a management issue to be considered in the viability of their populations. Hunting in the countries of the Council of Europe and the EU should be organised according to the provisions of the Bern Convention and the EU Birds Directive following the principles of sustainable wise use. Let alone the limited data available to undertake a precise estimate of the annual harvest on the majority of huntable species, a precise quantification at a continental and flyway scale of illegal killing is much more difficult obtain (except for individual countries with comprehensive monitoring schemes, e.g. Cyprus); many authors stipulate that the impact of illegal killing of migratory birds is significant (e.g. Magnin 1991, Steiner 2006). For example an assessment of the threats to birds in the Spanish Red Databook ranked illegal hunting as the fifth most important threat to nearly 60 protected species.

According to BirdLife (2010) significant illegal trade in birds for consumption into the EU from south-east and central Europe has been recognised as a serious conservation threat to some species. Illegal mist-netting, lime-sticking, tape-luring and automatic shotgun hunting are being used to maximise the numbers of birds killed resulting in an industry worth EUR10 million per year (see case study).

In order to define the scope of the activities described in this report it is important to recall the provisions that set the framework for hunting and other forms of lethal control of birds in the European countries. For the purpose of this report, the term *illegal killing* is used to represent any form of deliberate action that results in the death of a specimen of any bird species, regardless of it being or not the target of this action. In addition, such action is not performed in accordance to the legislation on hunting or nature protection in the country where the action has taken place. Other activities covered by this report include any form of deliberate catching, trapping, injuring, removing or persecution of birds and their eggs. In the general case such actions constitute a breach of the relevant national legislation, provided that this legislation is alligned to the international legal framework provided by:

- a. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)
- b. [Directive 2009/147/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

### 1. Hunting and the nature protection legislation in Europe

The Bern Convention (BC) and the Birds Directive (BD) set out the following obligations<sup>1</sup> in relation to the protection of bird species, to be implemented trough national laws:

- a. **A general system of bird protection** - All wild bird species naturally occurring on the territory must be protected, including by national or regional law (BD: 1, 5; BC: 1, 6).
- b. **Regulate legitimate hunting** - Each country may permit certain species (for EU countries, from the 82 species on Annex II of the Birds Directive) to be hunted providing that their populations can sustain this and that there is a closed season. The closed season must cover the breeding season and for migratory birds the pre-nuptial (spring, return) migration to their breeding grounds, according to the Directive (BD: 7; BC 7).
- c. **Methods of hunting** - All large scale or indiscriminate methods of catching or killing birds are prohibited, in particular, the use of snares, bird lime, live decoys, nets, traps, poisons and automatic weapons (BD: 8; BC 8).

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<sup>1</sup> A detailed interpretation of these provisions and reference to case law from the European Court can be found in a **Guidance Document** produced by the Commission. The document is available in all EU languages at the [Commission's web-page on sustainable hunting](#).

d. **Possibility for derogations** - Countries may make exceptions from bird protection measures for strictly defined reasons. Such exceptions are monitored by the European Commission and Council of Europe (BD: 9; BC 9).

#### **The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC**

The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds, with a few exceptions (listed in Annex III - III/1 allows taking in all Member States; III/2 allows taking in Member States in agreement with European Commission). The Directive recognises hunting as a legitimate activity and provides a comprehensive system for the management of hunting (limited to species listed in Annex II - II/1 allows hunting in all Member States; II/2 allows hunting in listed Member States) to ensure that this practice is sustainable. This includes a requirement to ensure that birds are not hunted during the periods of their greatest vulnerability, such as the return migration to the nesting areas, reproduction and the raising of chicks. It requires Member States to outlaw all forms of non-selective and large scale killing of birds, (especially the methods listed in Annex IV). It promotes research to underpin the protection, management and use of all species of birds covered by the Directive (Annex V).

## 2. Sustainable Hunting Initiative and the Agreement between FACE and BirdLife International

To address the long standing need for an improved dialogue with and between stakeholders, the European Commission launched the so called Sustainable Hunting Initiative (2001). An important output of this initiative was the EC Guide on Hunting under the Birds Directive (2004). It provides clear and comprehensive guidance on how Member States should be reflecting the principles laid down in the Birds Directive in their national measures for regulating hunting.

On the 12 of October 2004, FACE and BirdLife International signed an [Agreement](#), witnessed by Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström as part of the European Commission's Sustainable Hunting Initiative. The Agreement was the conclusion of a three-way dialogue, during 2001-2004, aimed at producing a pragmatic interpretation and application of the Birds Directive. A key principle of the Agreement is that BirdLife International and FACE recognise the value of the Directive for maintaining wild birds (including huntable species) and their habitats in a favourable conservation status at the EU level - with application of the Directive being based on the Commission's Interpretative Guide.

For more information about the BirdLife-FACE Agreement, please visit:

[http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU\\_policy/Birds\\_Habitats\\_Directives/Birds\\_Directive\\_hunting.htm](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU_policy/Birds_Habitats_Directives/Birds_Directive_hunting.htm)

## **B. Illegal Killing of Bird Survey**

### **1. Objectives**

The purpose of the survey is to obtain a fairly accurate and up to date picture of the extent and importance of illegal activities against birds that occur in the European countries parties to the Bern Convention. Furthermore, we want to identify the types of activities, the species affected, the trends as well as the availability and quality of data on the occurrence of these activities at a European scale. We tried to involve as many countries as possible in the survey and for this we relied on the BirdLife network.

The findings in this report constitute the main BirdLife contribution to the European Conference on Illegal Killing of Birds organized by the Bern Convention and the Cyprus government, Larnaka (Cyprus), 6th to 8th of July 2011.

### **2. Methods**

By definition, this report is a subjective interpretation of the situation with illegal killing activities based on the expert opinion and information available to the national BirdLife partner organisations. We anticipated that the availability and quality of the information would vary between the countries and therefore we addressed this issue in the design of our survey, in which we acknowledge the following assumptions

- Inherently there is some overlap between the illegal activities categories, which is due to the difficulty to clearly separate between some of the practices and their purpose (e.g. birds may be either trapped or shot and then traded for human consumption).
- Illegal activities are by definition hidden and difficult to track. As there are neither universally adopted recording standards nor systematic monitoring systems in place, the quality and amount of the data gathered by national BirdLife partners varies. Therefore, the results might be over representing countries where data collection and problem analysis is more effective (e.g. UK situation) and under represent others.
- The assessment of the situation provided by BirdLife organisations clearly reflects their level of involvement in these issues. It is evident that as conservation projects and capacities develop and become more comprehensive, the unveiling of formerly anecdotal data becomes reality thus more information about certain illegal activities becomes available.
- Due to the varying levels of precision and comprehensiveness, the scale and conservation impact of illegal activities are difficult to compare between different countries. Instead, we have investigated the occurrence of different types of illegal activities and their relative importance within the country, according to the information available.

#### Data Collection

BirdLife Partners were asked to fill an online questionnaire (example of the questionnaire in annex). and to score from 1 to 5 (Table 1), the scale, the conservation impact, the medium and long term trend and the quality of data for up to 16 different categories of illegal activities. The 16 categories represented specific activities that are strictly illegal under the Bird Directive and the Bern Convention and were developed in consultation with FACE in 2010. The respondents could add additional information and comments beyond these 16 activities if required.

Respondents were asked to provide a list of the main species affected for each of the 16 categories. For the first seven categories which are focusing on “Killing/taking of protected species”, respondents had to

select the three categories of highest importance in their country in descending order. When answering the questions, the experts had to take into account the country as a whole. The questionnaire had to be filled by the most appropriate person in the organization on this topic. We encouraged consultation with local experts and people with specific experience when responding.

Data collection took place in spring 2010 for the EU27 countries partners and during March-June 2011 for the BirdLife partners not in the EU.

### **Types of illegal killing categories used in the survey**

The list of the 16 categories of illegal activities of the survey with some typical examples:

#### **1 Killing / taking of protected bird species**

- 1.1 Random killing of protected species (e.g. vandalism, shooting at roosting owls with air guns)
- 1.2 Killing/taking for leisure / as part of regular hunting (e.g. poaching, look-alike species)
- 1.3 Killing/taking for human consumption and the associated trade (e.g. liming or trapping of Passerines for restaurants, traditional recipes)
- 1.4 Killing/taking of specimens for collections (e.g. birds of prey or herons for taxidermy)
- 1.5 Killing/taking of eggs for collections (e.g. eggs of rare species of birds of prey such as Egyptian Vulture)
- 1.6 Killing/taking for control (e.g. birds of prey by gamekeepers, fish eating birds by fish-farmers, bee-eaters by honey producers, etc.)
- 1.7 Capturing/taking for keeping birds alive (e.g. finches for cage birds, birds of prey for falconry – incl. eggs to be hatched, owls and raptors for pets, etc)

#### **2 Killing / taking of birds outside the legal open season (for “hunnable” species for which open and closed seasons are set in legislation)**

#### **3 Killing / taking of birds with illegal means or methods (regardles of the species)**

- 3.1 Illegal firearms (e.g. with silencers, night vision scopes, automatic and semi-automatic guns, etc.)
- 3.2 Illegal traps, nets, snares, lime stick etc.
- 3.3. Illegal use of poisons/ poisoned baits (targeting directly or targeting other predators)
- 3.4 Illegal means of transport (high speed boats, shooting from cars, etc.)

#### **4 Killing / taking of birds within protected areas (where such activities are forbidden)**

#### **5 Killing / taking of birds by unauthorised persons (having no official licence or permit)**

#### **6 Illegal / unregulated trade of birds**

- 6.1 National / Internal Illegal / unregulated trade of birds and bird products.
- 6.2 International Illegal / unregulated trade of birds and bird products.

**Table 1 Scoring system used to evaluate the importance of the illegal activities.**

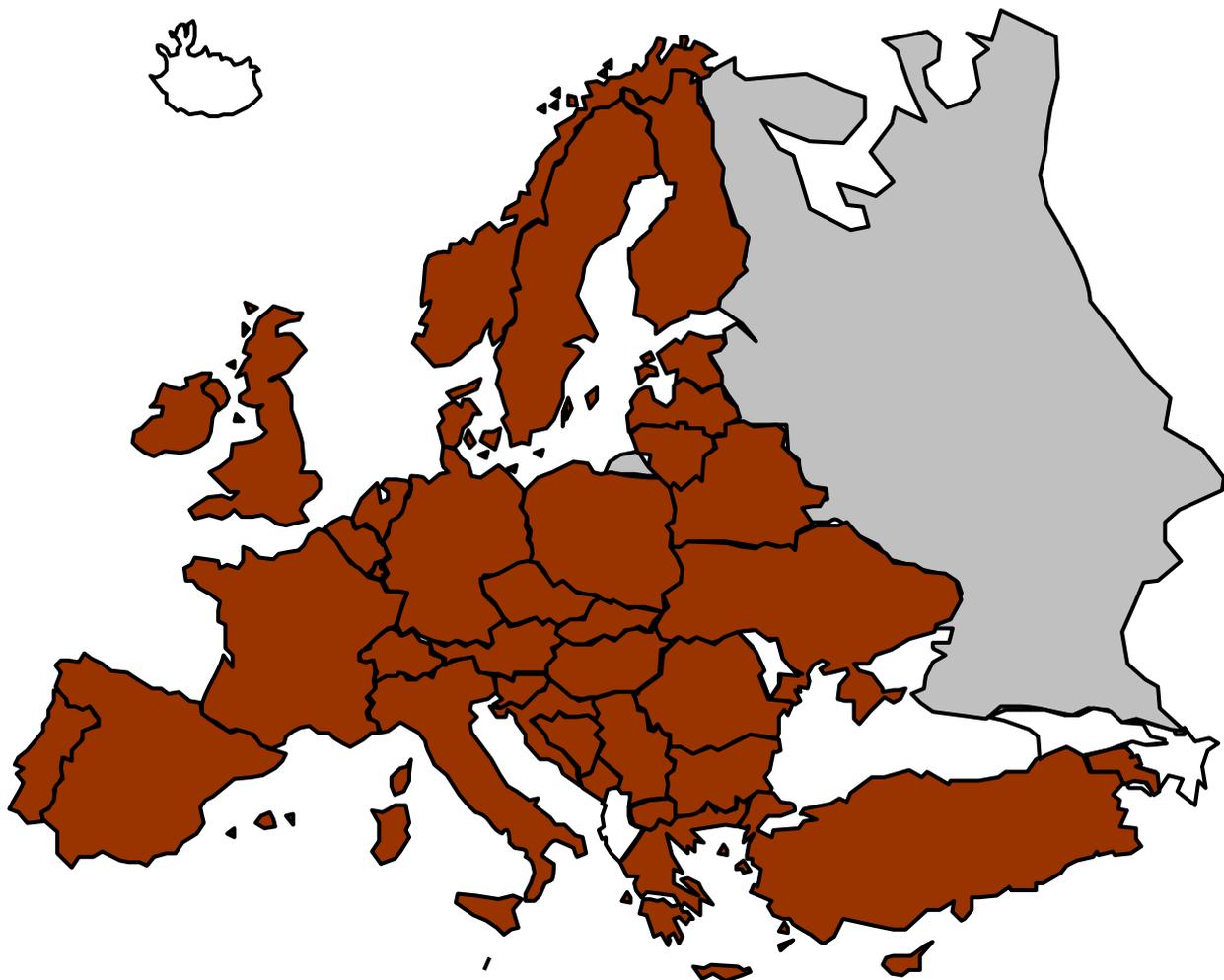
<b>Score</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Conservation impact</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Availability of data</b>
0	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
1	Local/rare	Very low, negligible	Decreased a lot	Poor quality based on anecdotal evi
2	Local	Low	Decreased	
3	Widespread but rare	Moderate	No change	Good evidence but no records kept
4	Widespread and common	High	Increased	
5	Widespread and abundant	Very high	Increased a lot	Good quality systematised data

## Response rate by BirdLife partners

The geographical scope of the survey covered the 50 countries signatories to the Bern Convention, but the questionnaire was sent to 47 European organisations, members of the BirdLife Partnership, representing the EU27 and 20 non-EU countries. We received 40 responses (fig.1). Thus our survey covers 26 EU Member States and 14 non-EU countries.

The responses were initially reviewed and turned into country fact sheets containing the list of illegal activities reported, the scores allocated and the species affected. A short text summarised the important comments and clarifications made. The draft fact sheets were sent back to the partners so they could double check their scores and make corrections if necessary. This second review of the factsheets for the EU 27 happened roughly one year after the initial data collection and resulted in some further data being provided and to refinements of the results.

Due to the lack of established BirdLife contact in Albania and Moldova those countries were not surveyed. We received no data from Iceland, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Russia (which is not a signatory to the Bern Convention) was not included in the survey due to its extent and difficulty to cover by one questionnaire. On the contrary, we included Belarus although it is not formerly a signatory country. Partners from Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Gibraltar responded that there were no or only marginal problems with illegal killing of birds in their country so had no details to report. These countries were then not presented in the factsheets. We received two separate answers from our two Belgian partners but we combined them to obtain one fact sheet for Belgium.



**Figure 1 Countries that responded to the questionnaire on illegal killing of birds in Europe**

## Data analysis

The questionnaire referred to 16 different categories of illegal activities in order to capture the complete spectrum of possible illegal activities known to us. There is naturally some overlap between some of these categories and to simplify our data set and analysis, we have grouped different categories together. Our final data set has 12 categories (see below) and three parameters for each category: (1) importance, (2) quality of evidence and (3) 10 years trend for each country. All our further analysis is based on these scores and all the scores are presented in the factsheets (tables and charts). When responded did not answer a question because it did not apply to their country (after confirming that the activity was indeed not applicable to their country) we set the missing value to zero.

### **Final set of illegal activity categories presented:**

The list of the twelve categories created for the analysis and their linkage to the initial 16 categories (see page 6) these new ones are based on.

1. **Leisure** -> Merge of categories 1.1 and 1.2
2. **Human consumption** -> Category 1.3
3. **Collection** -> Merge of categories 1.4, 1.5 and 1.7
4. **Control of predating birds** -> Category 1.6
5. **Killing inside protected areas** -> Category 4
6. **Killing outside the legal season** -> Category 2
7. **Killing having no permit** -> Category 5
8. **Illegal firearms or transport** -> Merge of categories 3.1 and 3.4
9. **Illegal trapping** -> Category 3.2
10. **Poisoning** -> Category 3.3
11. **Killing of protected birds** -> Merge of categories 1.1 to 1.7
12. **Illegal trade** -> Merge of categories 6.1 and 6.2

### **Calculation of the parameters used for ranking**

#### **(1) Importance**

We created the parameter “Importance” as a combination of the original values for “Scale” and “Conservation impact” from the questionnaire. The “Importance” of an activity refers then to the measure of its consequences on bird species. We took the variable “Conservation impact” as the first reference and took into account the variable “Scale” only when the score for “Scale” was much higher the one for “Conservation impact”. In most cases, we reported the variable “Conservation Impact” as “Importance” without changing anything to the score. But if an activity was found not to have a high “Conservation Impact” (for example 2/5) but was still reported to occur widely in the country (“Scale” is 5/5), we raised the value of “Importance” to a 3/5. The following scores apply:

Score	Importance
1	Very Low/Local
2	Low/Widespread
3	Moderate/Widespread
4	High/Widespread
5	Very High/Widespread

#### **(2) Evidence**

The parameter “Evidence” refers to the variable “Availability of data” for 10 year period: Monitoring of illegal activities can be difficult to implement but gives very valuable information on the importance and trend of an activity. For each category, we would like to underline whether standardized data are collected or if importance and trend are estimated on anecdotal evidences.

The following scores apply:

Score	Evidence
1	Poor quality based on anecdotal evidence
2	---
3	Good evidence but no systematic records kept
4	---
5	Good quality systematised data

### **(3) Ten year trend**

We decided to consider the variable 10 years trend because it refers to the changes of the activity importance due to legislation enforcement (short term) rather than cultural changes (long term).

Score	<b>10 years Trend</b>
<b>-2</b>	Activity decreased a lot
<b>-1</b>	Activity decreased
<b>0</b>	No change observed
<b>+1</b>	Activity increased
<b>+2</b>	Activity increased a lot

### **Processing the data:**

For each category of illegal activity we created a map showing the overall distribution of the activity in Europe; we also draw a general interpretation on the trend, species affected and conservation impact of the activity at the European scale.

For each country, we summarized the data into a factsheet. Each factsheet contains a short text that underlines the most important characteristics, a list of the bird species affected by the different categories and graphs and tables presenting the scores.

NB! Although the maps represent in colour the importance of these activities in each country, due to the assumptions specified earlier in this report, we warn against direct comparison between countries based on the maps only. Instead, those interested in comparisons should consult the factsheets and take into account the quality of the information as well as the text summaries.

### 3. Results

#### General interpretation

From the 12 different categories of illegal activities reported, up to 11 can appear in the same country. We considered an activity occurring in a country only if it was reported as important (score >2), thus eliminating activities that are rare, anecdotal and considered to have very low conservation impact.

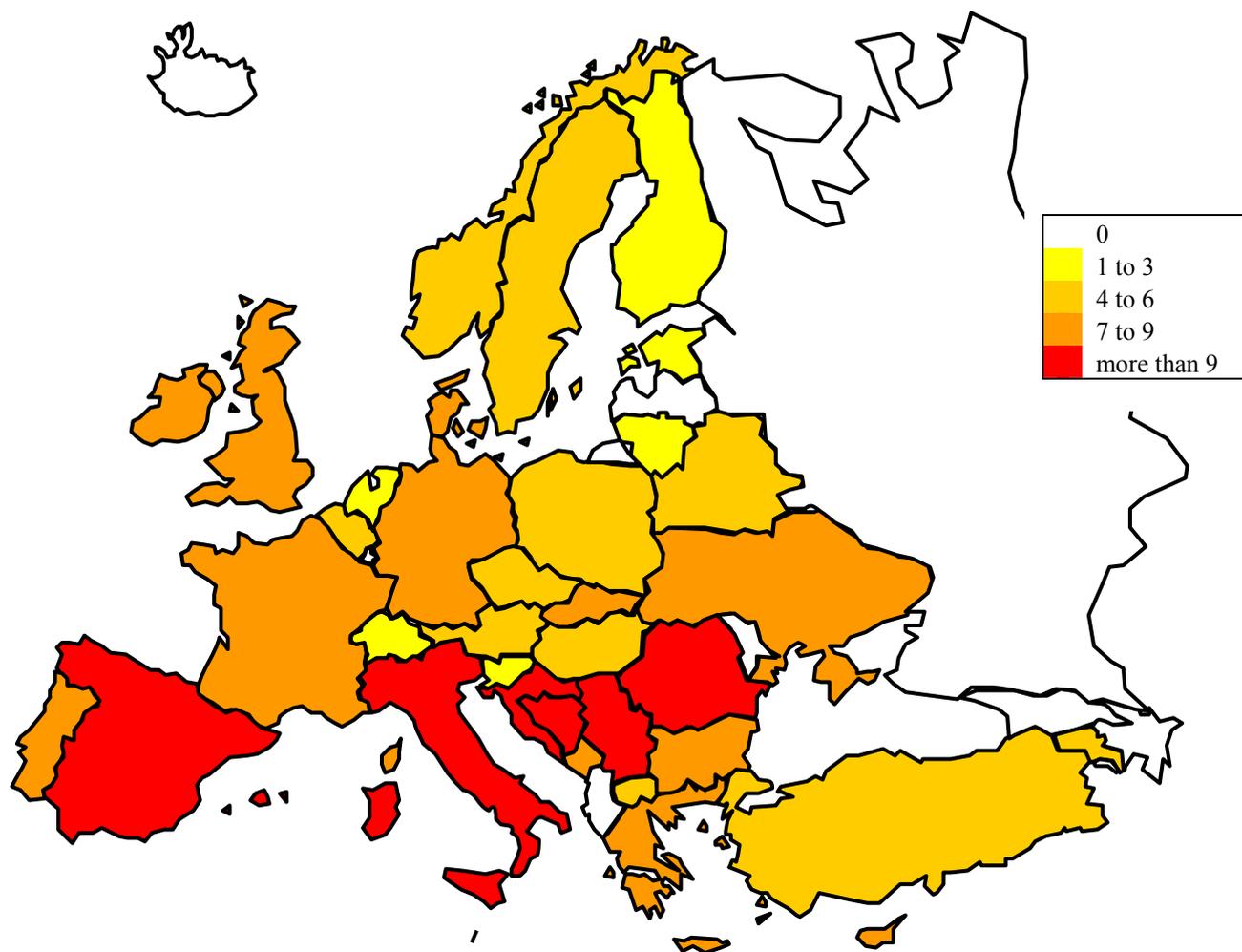


Figure 2 Number of illegal activity categories reported per country.

## Poisoning

### SCALE

Here we refer to direct poisoning, often because of deliberate setting of poison baits or carcasses and not to secondary poisoning caused by the application of biocides for rodent control (which is a separate issue). Poisoning, mainly of birds of prey, is considered to be the most important issue regarding illegal killing of birds in Europe, due to its high conservation impact (see case studies from Hungary and Spain) (average score at European scale is 2.31/5; average score within the countries where the activity occurs is 3.46/5).

The countries where poisoning is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Cyprus, Croatia, Morocco, Macedonia, Serbia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Denmark, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Spain and the UK.

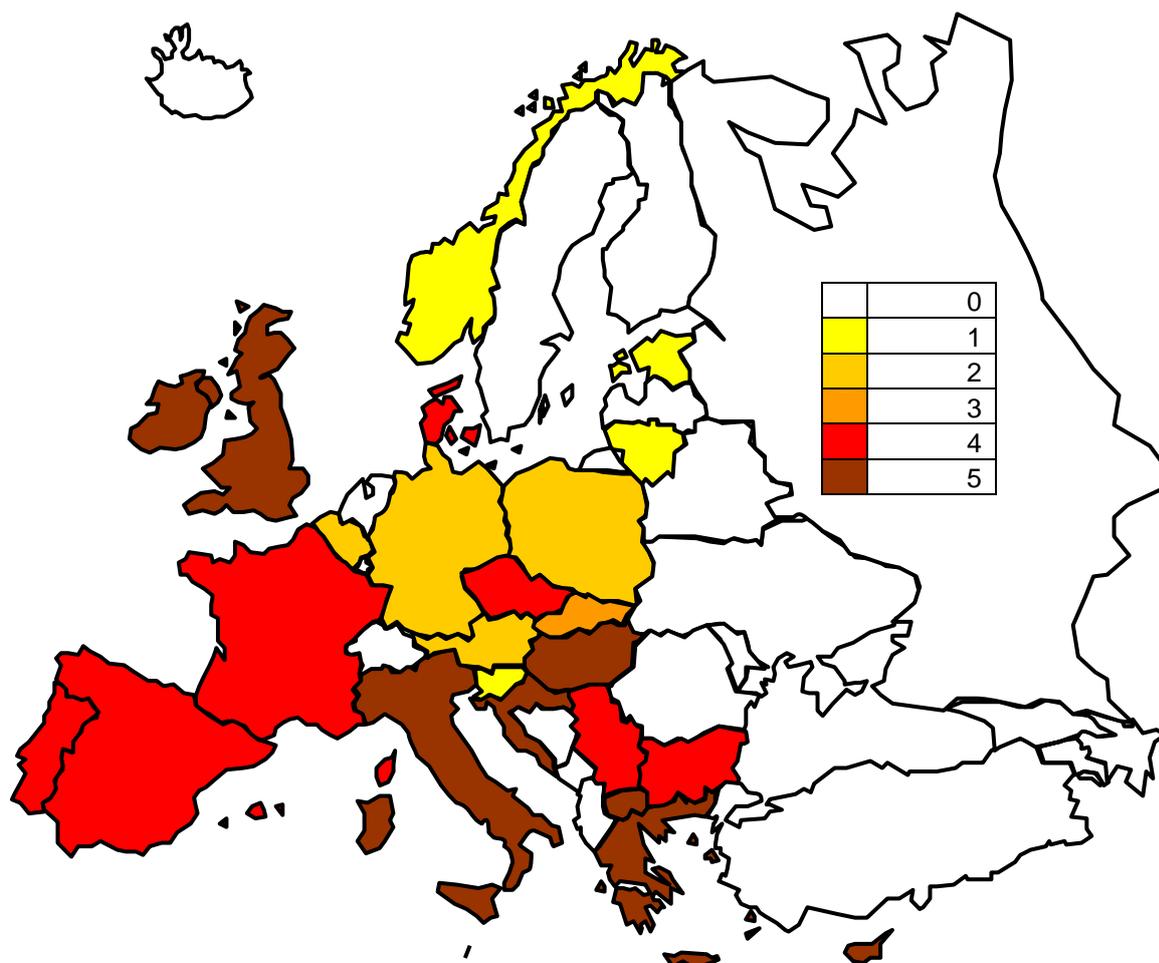


Figure 3 Importance of poisoning estimated by Birdlife partners for their country.

### TREND

In the last 10 years, poisoning of birds has increased in 9 countries: Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary, Greece, France, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Macedonia. This activity has decreased in Poland, Cyprus, and Denmark. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

### SPECIES AFFECTED

*Aegypius monachus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Milvus milvus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Corvus corax*, *Corvus corone*

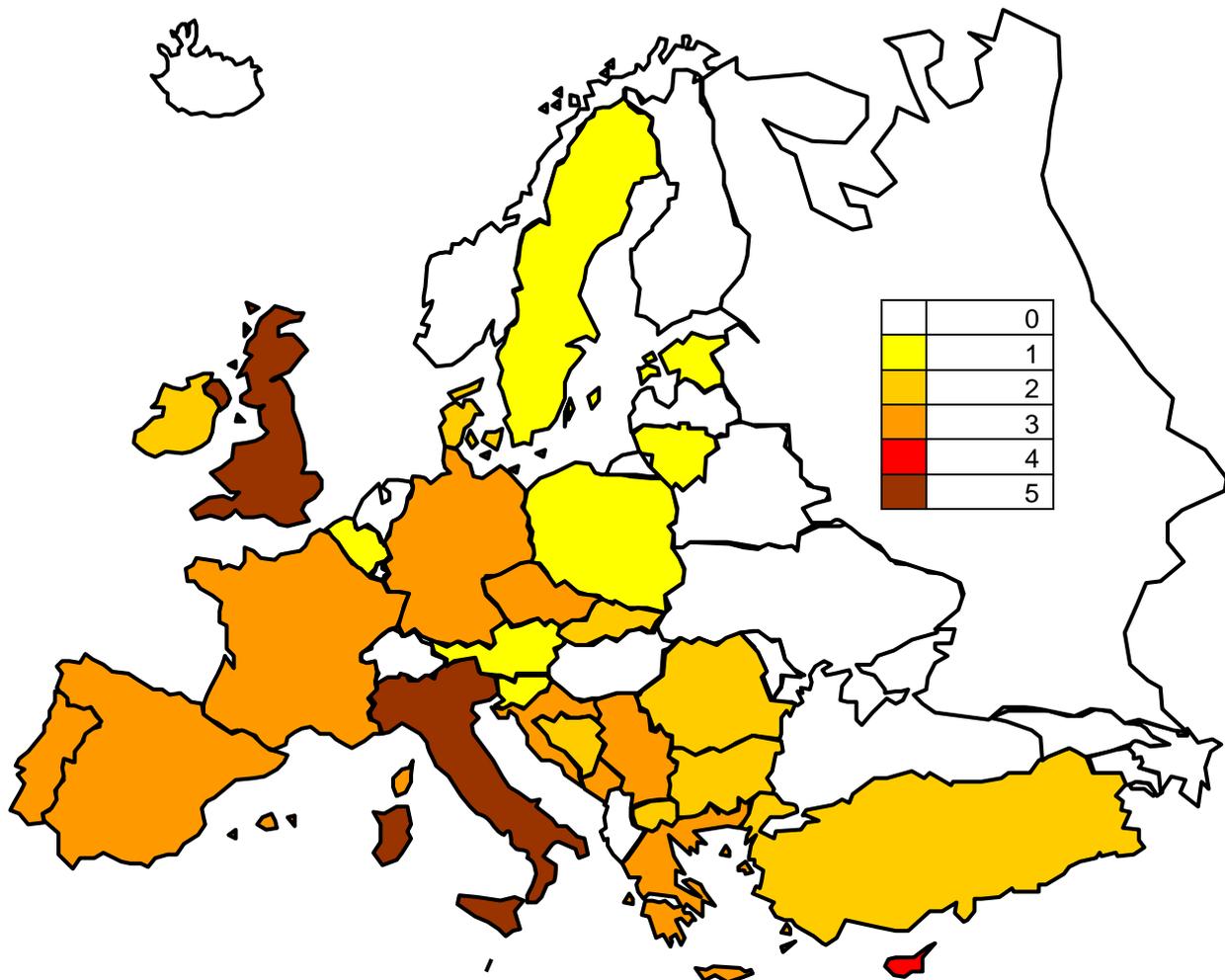
**Bold** = Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC 1-2-3)

## Illegal trapping

### SCALE

Illegal trapping is a widespread problem, not only limited to the Mediterranean countries. It can be practiced also legally (under a derogation regime for certain species) but it is difficult to control. Estimating the impact on bird populations is not easy to quantify with the available data (average score at European scale is 1.75/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.52/5).

The countries where illegal trapping is widespread and where it was considered to have at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Germany, Serbia, Spain and the UK.



**Figure 4 Importance of illegal trapping activities estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### TREND

In the last 10 years, illegal trapping of birds has increased in Cyprus, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia. This activity has decreased in Sweden, Poland, Cyprus and Denmark. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

### SPECIES AFFECTED

*Crex crex*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Monticola solitarius*, *Upupa epops*, *Emberiza hortelana*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Sylvia atricapilla*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Sylvia communis*, *Sylvia curruca*, *Turdus philomelos*, *Turdus iliacus*, *Turdus viscivorus*, *Motacilla alba*, *Motacilla cinerea*, *Motacilla flava*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Carduelis cadruelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, *Parus major*, *Parus caeruleus*, *Pyrrhulla pyrrhulla*, *Fringilla montifringilla*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Serinus serinus*

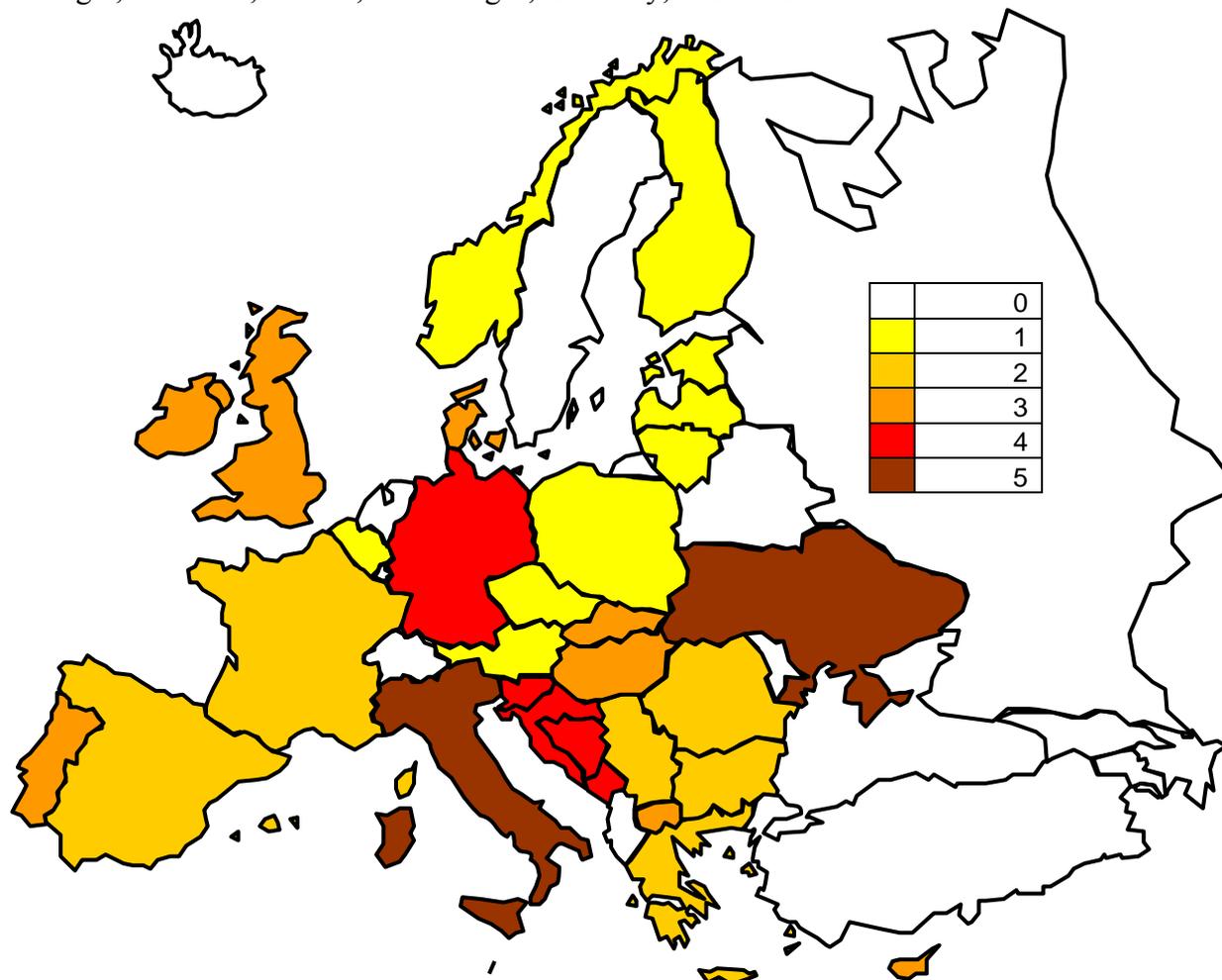
**Bold** = Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC 1-2-3)

## Illegal Trade

### SCALE

Illegal trade of birds is considered as one of the most important illegal activities affecting birds in Europe (average score at European scale is 2/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.43/5). It affects a broad spectrum of species, depending on the purpose of the trade. Finches, thrushes and warblers are sold for food to restaurants in some countries. The illegal smuggling of birds of prey is particularly affecting raptors with vulnerable populations such as the Saker, Booted Eagle.

The countries where illegal trade is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Cyprus, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Ireland, Montenegro, Germany, and the UK.



**Figure 5 Importance of illegal trade according to Birdlife partners for their country.**

### TREND

In the last 10 years, illegal trade of birds has increased in Portugal, Hungary, Greece, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia. This activity has decreased in Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Austria and Norway. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

### SPECIES AFFECTED

*Alauda arvensis*, *Anthus campestris*, *Miliaria calandra*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Tyto alba*, *Otus stops*, *Athene noctua*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Monticola saxatilis*, *Scolopax rusticola*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco eleonora*, *Falco biarmicus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Milvus milvus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Merops apiaster*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Buteo buteo*, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, *Parus major*, *Parus caeruleus*, *Pyrrhulla pyrrhulla*, *Serinus Serinus*, *Fringilla montifringilla*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Turdus spp.*, *Emberiza spp.*, *Carduelis spinus*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Tetrao urogallus*

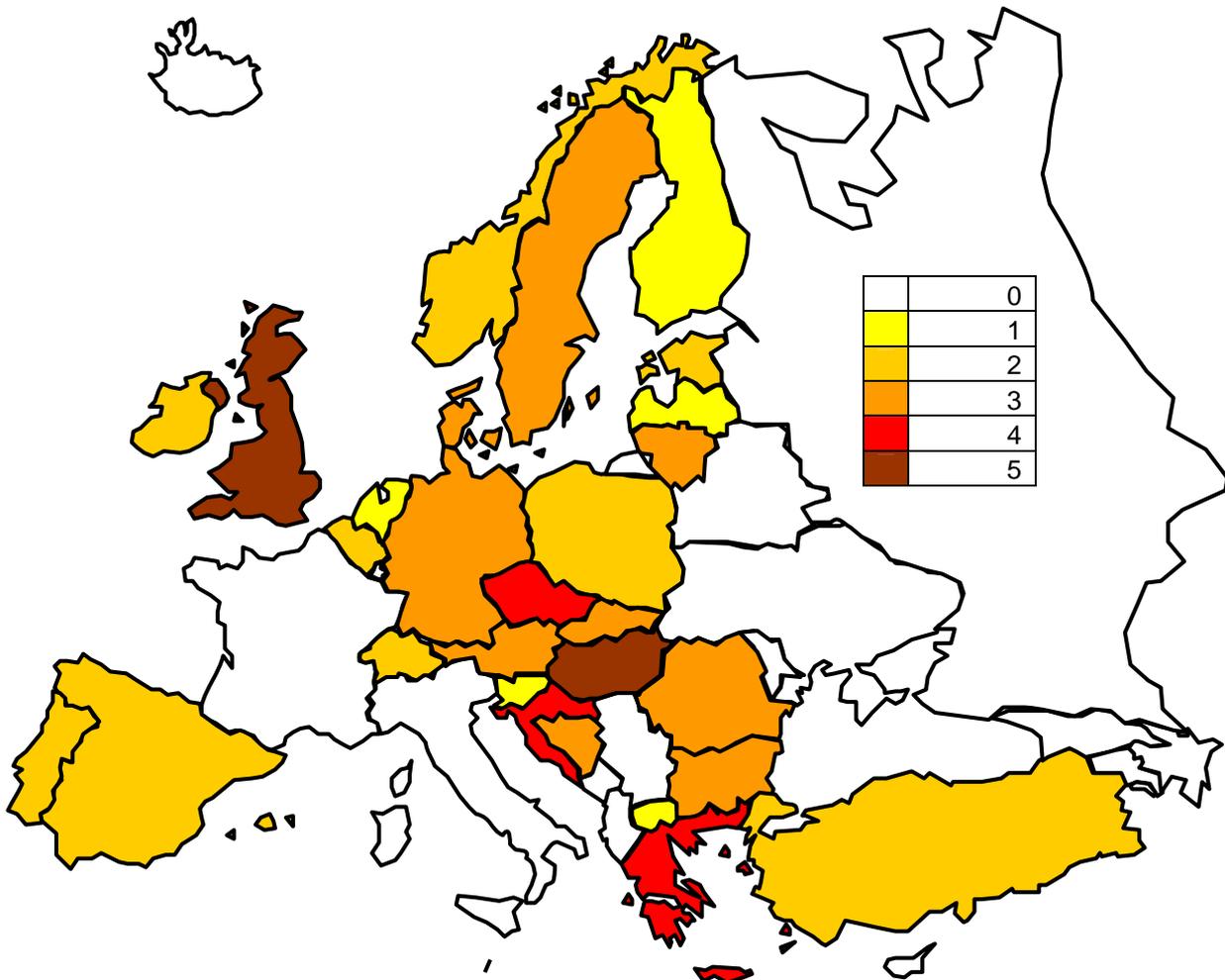
**Bold** = Species under unfavourable European conservation status (SPEC 1-2-3).

## Killing for control of predators

### SCALE

Killing birds as predators to game species or fish is a threat to some raptors and fish eating birds in Europe. (average score at European scale is 1.89/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.27/5).

The countries where killing for “control of predating birds” is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Lithuania, Slovakia, Croatia, Germany, and the UK.



**Figure 6** Importance of killing for “control of predating birds” according to Birdlife partners for their country.

### TREND

In the last 10 years, illegal killing for “control of predating birds” has increased in Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Morocco.

This activity has decreased in Spain, Slovenia, Poland, Finland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Austria, Turkey and Belarus.

It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

### SPECIES AFFECTED

*Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Athene noctua*, *Tyto alba*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Hierraeetus fasciatus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Ketupa zeylonensis*, *Merops apiaster*, *Aquila adalberti*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Accipiter gentiles*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Larus argentatus*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Corvus corax*, *Corvus corone*, *Garrulus glandarius*, *Pica pica*, *Gyps fulvus*

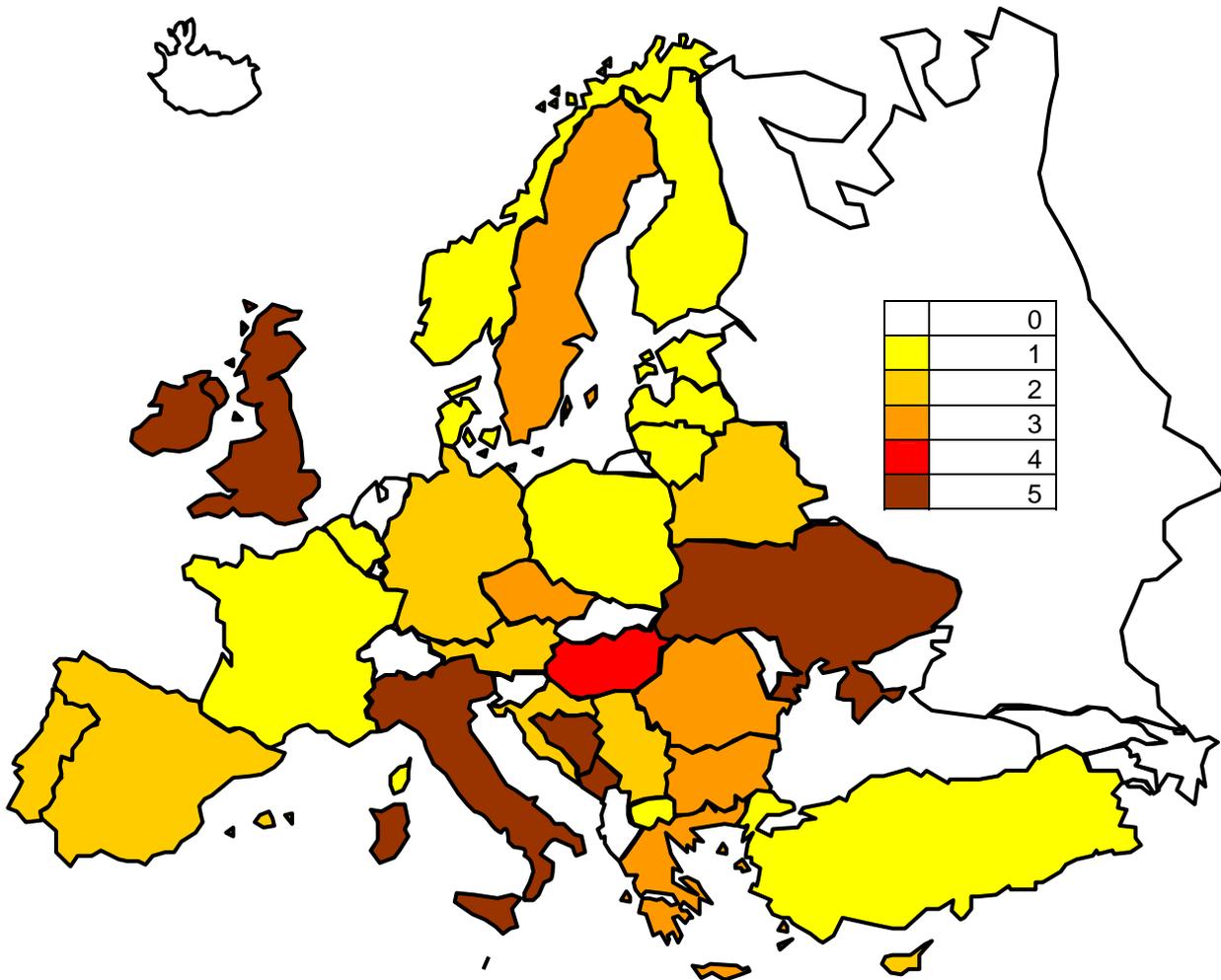
**Bold** = Species under unfavourable European conservation status (SPEC 1-2-3).

## Killing birds in protected areas

### **SCALE**

Killing birds inside protected areas (where hunting is not allowed) is one of the most commonly reported issues regarding illegal activities against birds in Europe (average score at European scale is 2.06/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.33/5).

The countries where killing inside protected areas is widespread and has at least moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Ukraine, Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy and the UK.



**Figure 7. Importance of killing inside protected areas estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### **TREND**

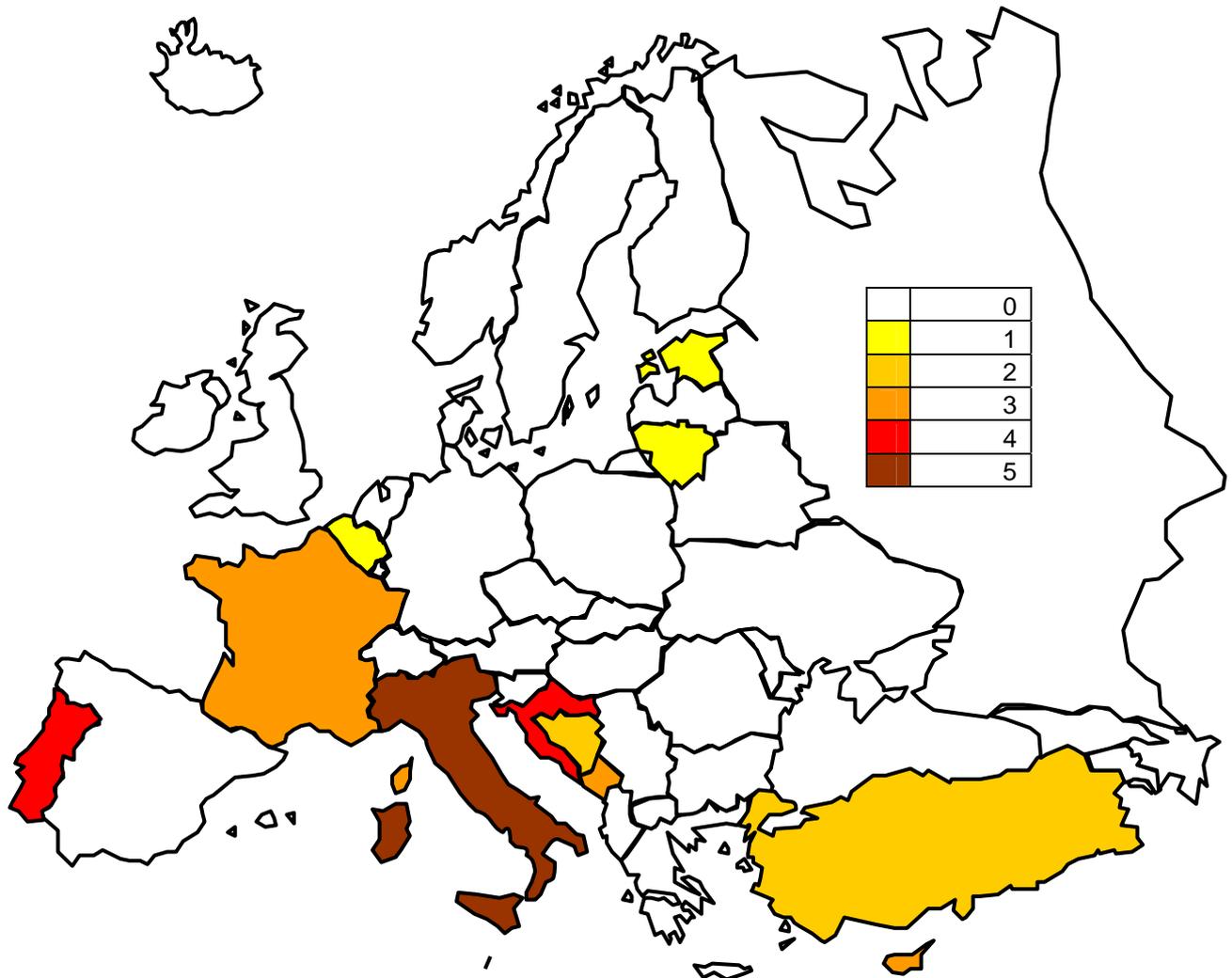
In the last 10 years, killing inside protected areas has increased in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Slovenia. This activity has decreased in Norway, Belarus, Croatia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Spain, Germany and Poland. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## Killing for human consumption

### SCALE

Killing birds for human consumption is an important issue but is only concerning a few countries in Europe (average score at European scale is 0.78/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 1.04/5).

The countries where killing birds for human consumption is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Portugal, France, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and Cyprus.



**Figure 8. Importance of killing birds for human consumption estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### TREND

In the last 10 years, killing birds for human consumption has increased in Montenegro and Portugal. This activity has decreased in Cyprus. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

### SPECIES AFFECTED

*Galerida cristata*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Alauda arvensis*., *Coturnix coturnix*, *Emberiza hortelana*, *Fulica atra*, *Anthus sp.*, *Fringilla montifringilla*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Sylvia atricapilla*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Sylvia communis*, *Sylvia curruca*, Laniidae, Anatidae.

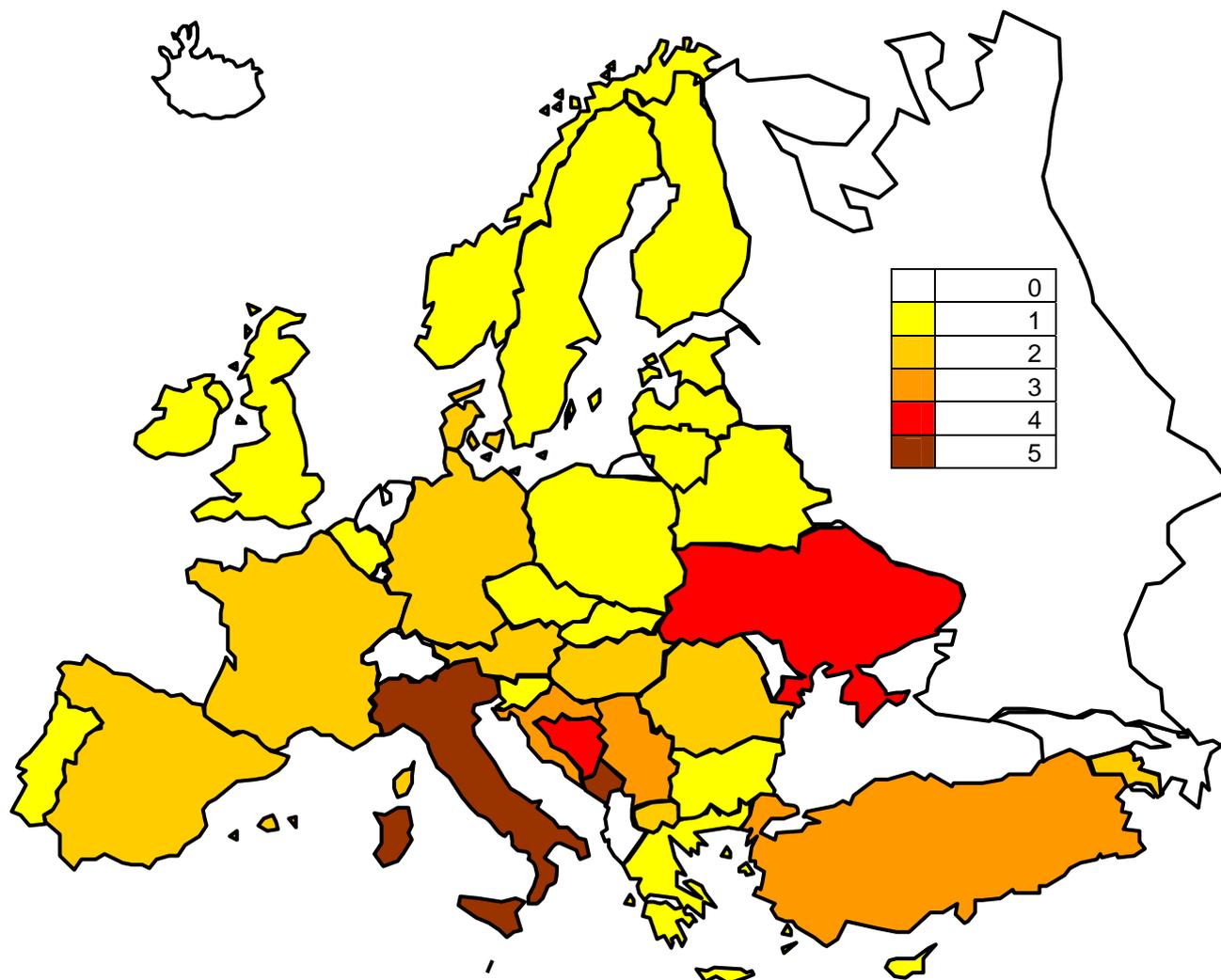
**Bold** = Species under unfavourable European conservation status (SPEC 1-2-3).

## Killing outside the legal season

### **SCALE**

Killing birds outside the legal season is common across Europe but has been decreasing in importance in most of them. It is still an important problem in a few countries (average score at European scale is 1.83/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 1.94/5).

The countries where “killing birds outside the legal season” is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Turkey.



**Figure 9. Importance of killing birds outside the legal season estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### **TREND**

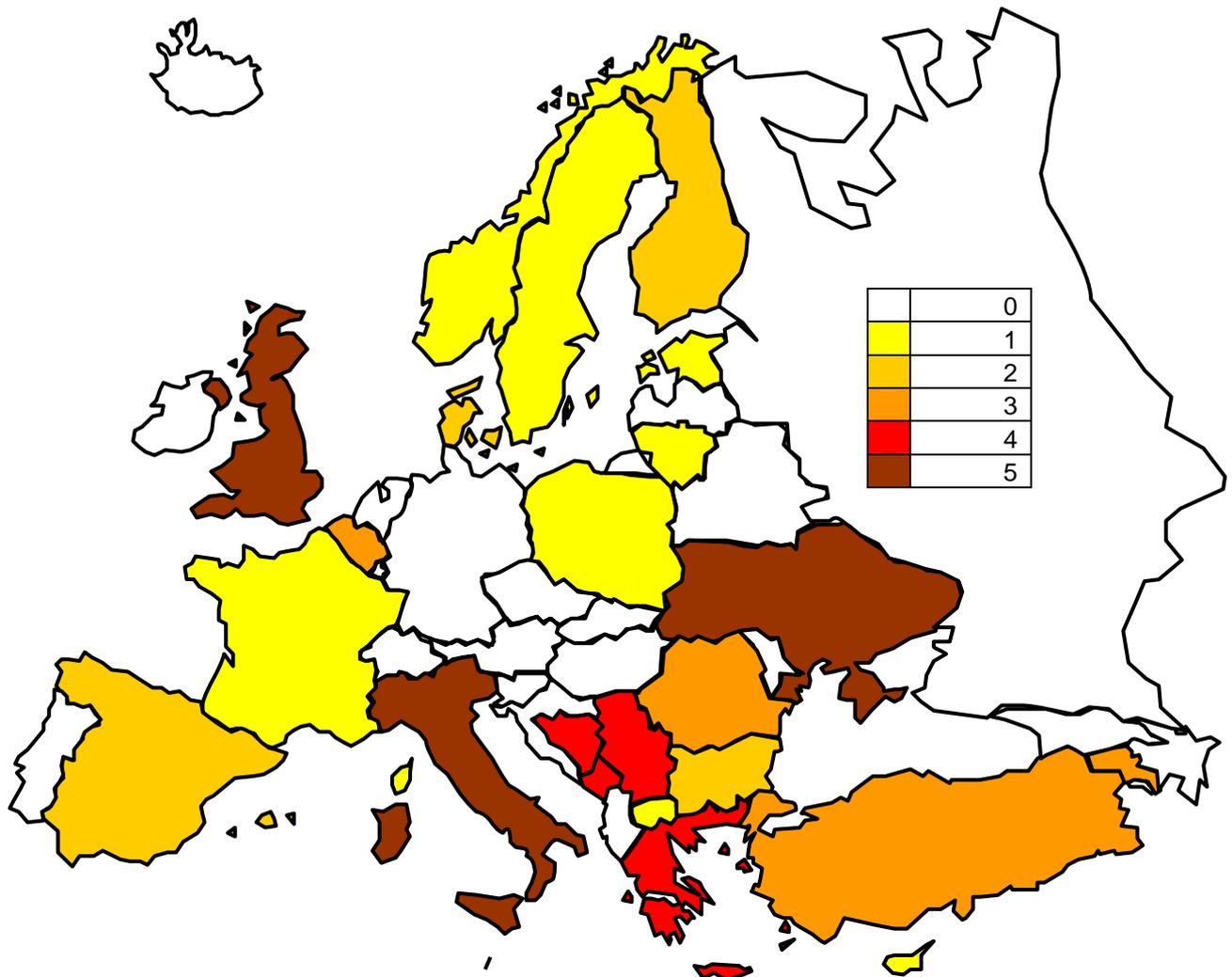
In the last 10 years, killing birds outside the legal season has increased in Slovenia, Portugal, Montenegro, Armenia and Ukraine. This activity has decreased in Spain, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Austria, Croatia, Belarus and Norway. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## Killing using illegal firearms or means of transport

### SCALE

Killing birds using illegal firearms or means of transport is not considered as one of the most important issue regarding illegal activities against birds in Europe but it occurs widely in many different countries (average score at European scale is 1.61/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.64/5).

The countries where using illegal firearms or means of transport is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Greece, Armenia, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and the UK.



**Figure 10. Importance of killing using illegal firearms or means of transport estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### TREND

In the last 10 years, killing using illegal firearms or means of transport has increased in Greece, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

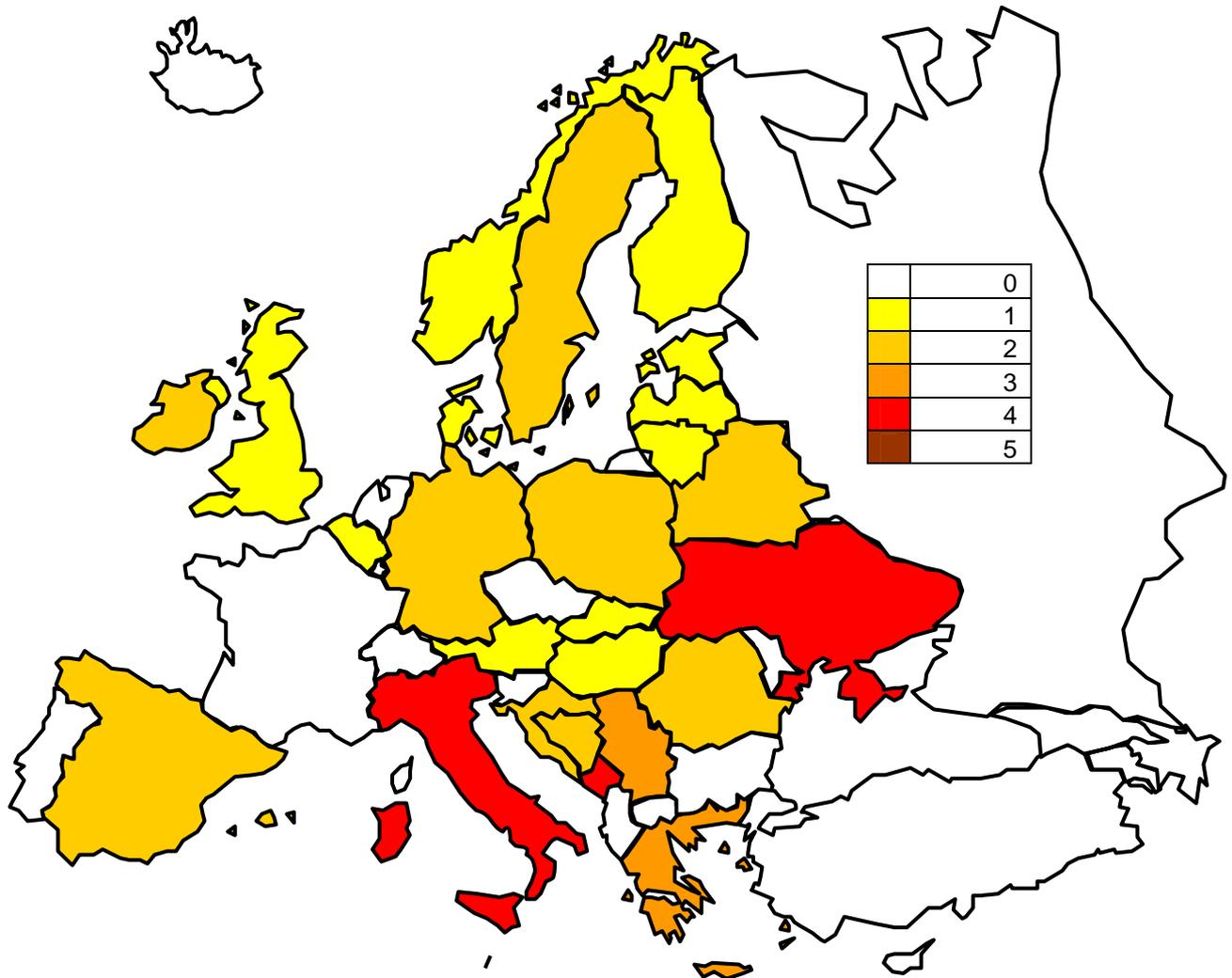
This activity has decreased in Romania, Spain, Germany, Estonia, Austria, Belarus, Croatia and Poland. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## Killing without a permit

### SCALE

Killing birds without a permit is not considered as one of the most important issue regarding illegal activities against birds in Europe but it still occurs in a few European countries (average score at European scale is 1.32/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 1.88/5).

The countries where killing birds without a permit is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are:Italy, Greece and Montenegro.



**Figure 11. Importance of killing birds without a permit estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### TREND

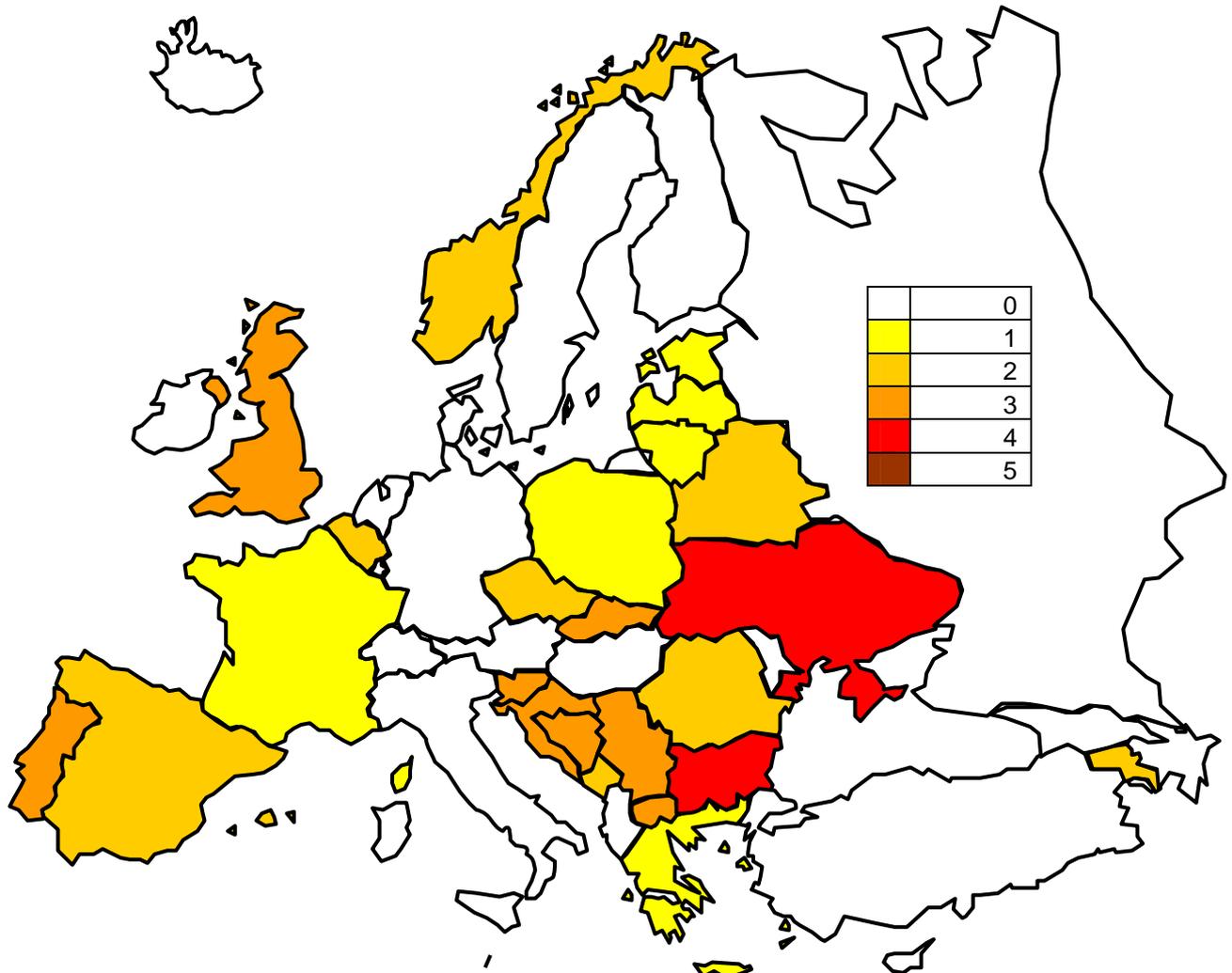
In the last 10 years, killing without a permit has increased in Ukraine, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Slovenia. This activity has decreased in Norway, Belarus, Croatia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Spain, Germany and Poland. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## Killing for collection (taxidermy/cage birds/falconry)

### SCALE

Killing/Taking birds for collection is still an important issue in Europe (average score at European scale is 1.64/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 1.97/5).

The countries where “killing/taking birds for collection” is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are: Portugal, the UK, Slovenia, Croatia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovakia and Bulgaria.



**Figure 12. Importance of killing/taking birds for collection estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### TREND

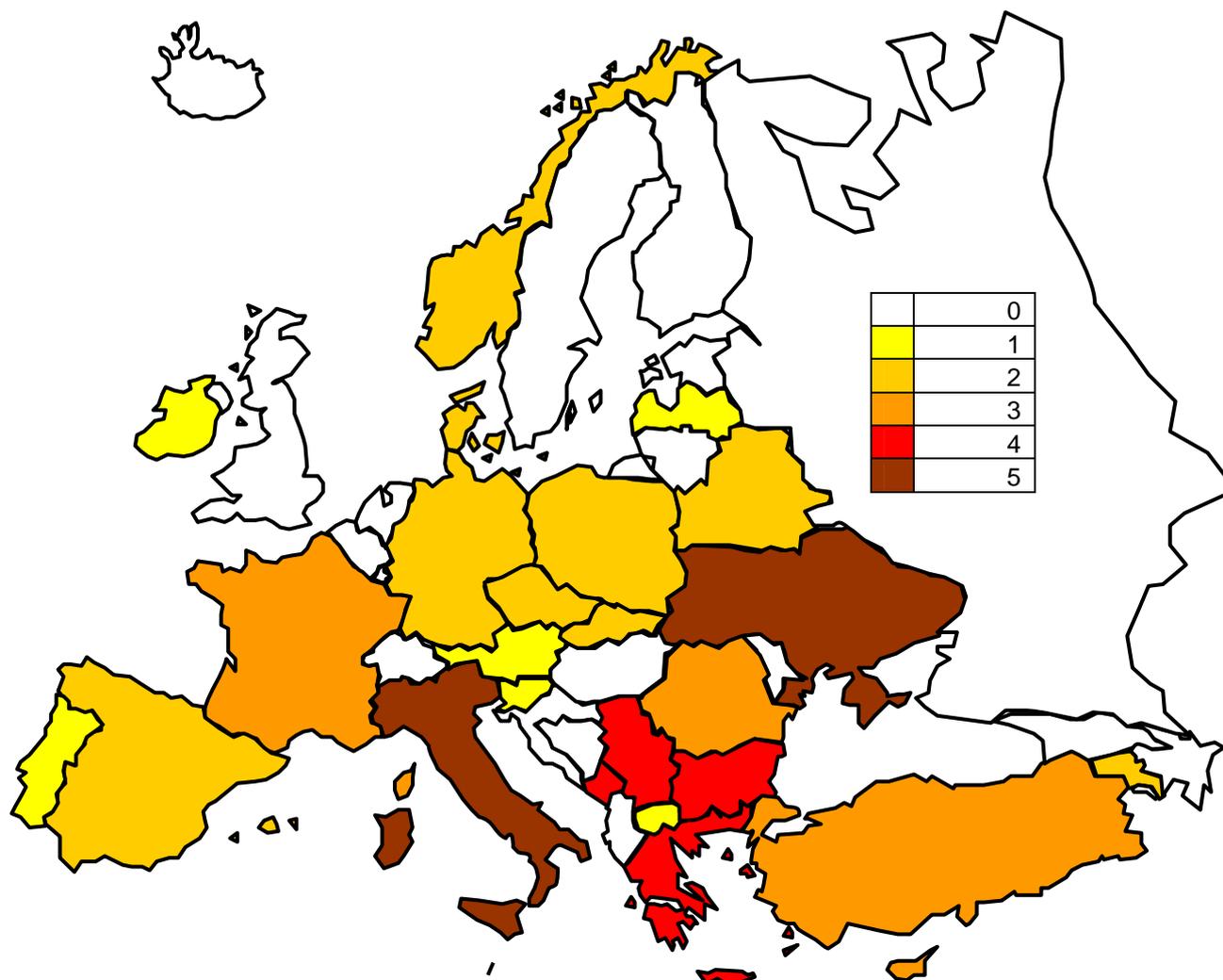
In the last 10 years, killing/taking birds for collection has increased in Macedonia and Portugal. This activity has decreased in Spain, Poland, Norway, Czech Republic, Belarus and Bulgaria. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## Killing protected species for 'leisure'

### **SCALE**

Killing protected species of birds for 'leisure' in Europe is a very important issue as it is having conservation impact on the species in more than 18 countries (average score at European scale is 1.81/5; average score within the countries where the activity occur is 2.60/5).

The countries where killing protected species of birds for 'leisure' is widespread and has at least a moderate conservation impact on bird species are France, Norway, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Belarus, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Romania, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.



**Figure 13. Importance of killing protected species of birds for 'leisure' estimated by each national Birdlife International partner for their country.**

### **TREND**

In the last 10 years, killing protected species of birds for 'leisure' has increased in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine and Montenegro. This activity has decreased in Greece, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Slovakia. It has remained stable in the other countries concerned.

## **C. Case Studies**

<b>C. Case Studies</b>	<b>- 24 -</b>
<b>Enforcement work on wildlife crime in Bulgaria</b>	<b>- 25 -</b>
<b>Killing of protected birds in Serbia</b>	<b>- 26 -</b>
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<b>Wildlife poisoning in the Czech Republic</b>	<b>- 29 -</b>
<b>Raptor persecution in Sinjsko polje – Croatia</b>	<b>- 30 -</b>
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# Enforcement work on wildlife crime in Bulgaria

Dimitar Gradinarov, Saker Falcon Conservation Officer & BSPB Wildlife Crime Coordinator  
[www.bspb.org](http://www.bspb.org)

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB)/BirdLife Bulgaria has been working on bird crime issues since 1990's mainly in the frame of birds of prey conservation projects. Important elements of this work aimed to support and reinforce the capacity of the responsible institutions dealing with prevention of wildlife: the Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Custom Agency within the Ministry of Finance.

## **Illegal activities**

The illegal activities considered most by us are those that affect threatened species of birds of prey such as the Saker falcon, Imperial Eagle and Egyptian Vulture. They include trapping of wild birds (for falconry), nest robbery (for falconry and egg collectors), illegal killing (hunters, poachers, and for taxidermy), poisoning (pigeon breeders, farmers, shepherds) and illegal traffic (for falconry and raptor shows). All these activities are illegal according to the Biodiversity Act and are subject of criminal persecution.

The problem of illegal harvesting of falcon nests emerged during the 1980's but increased during the last 10 years in parallel to a growing interest in the practice of falconry. Although the Biodiversity Act allows keeping of birds of prey in captivity (with CITES permits), using them for hunting is prohibited by the hunting legislation in Bulgaria. This inconsistency is a source of confusion which has been abused for the purpose of illegal actions such as illegal hunting, falsification of CITES documents for the purpose of traffic and "laundry" of wild birds, etc.

## **Evidences and bird species affected**

There is no reliable statistics about the scale of wildlife crime and specifically bird crime but there is increasing trend of cases of recorded nest robberies and traffic of rare species such as Imperial Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Saker Falcon, Bonelli's Eagle, Eleonora's Falcon. For example two nests of Imperial Eagle and a nest of Egyptian vulture were robbed in 2010 and the chicks were stolen. This corresponds with the higher interest and increased number of registered birds of prey kept in captivity, active promotion and lobbying for the legalization of falconry and appearance of web publications showing birds in captivity. There is unofficial information on existing 'demand' and 'prices' for raptors for taxidermy including for export.

## **BSPB taking action**

BSPB included specific actions in its largest conservation projects (e.g. LIFE "Save the Raptors"). In the last three years BSPB organized and conducted series of national conferences and workshops focused on wildlife crime together with all relevant Bulgarian institutions and all the leading NGO's working in the field. The most important achievement has been the increased interest and involvement of the Police and Customs agency. BSPB helped by RSPB became mediator in experience exchange between and Bulgarian police and the British Police. The head of UK Wildlife crime Unit visited Bulgaria and delivered presentations on a workshop for Bulgarian enforcement institutions. Very important event was the organised together visit of Bulgarian police and Customs' officers at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wildlife Crime Enforcer's Conference in UK 2010, supported by RSPB. This was very important new stage of the development of the reinforcement work on international level and in the same time new experience and a demonstration of the professional work done by UK Police. These activities were followed by increased will for cooperation and better communications between the institutions and NGO's back in Bulgaria. Consequent results followed: the Bulgarian Police initiated investigations on all registered cases of nest robbery (Imperial eagle and Egyptian vulture nests) in 2010. A case of smuggling of two Bonelli's eagles was brought to the court and development has been monitored by the Supreme prosecutor's office.

# Killing of protected birds in Serbia

Dragan Simic, League for Ornithological Action of Serbia (LOA) [www.ptica.org](http://www.ptica.org)

## The Facts

The main illegal activities against protected birds in Serbia are the killing of strictly protected species for taxidermy purposes, catching of strictly protected songbirds for commercial purposes (to increase genetic variability of caged birds), catching of raptors for sales and killing them as vermin and shooting in protected areas. For example on 28 August 2010, opening day for the turtle dove season, a hunt was organised in the strictly protected zone of the Great Bustard Reserve, where hunting is strictly forbidden. Despite of that almost 500 turtle doves were killed. The law prohibits all these practices, but is not being enforced.

Two recent cases of bird smuggling, prevented by Serbian Customs, showed again the size of bird poaching in this country. The first case took place in August 2010, when customs stopped a shipment of 221 Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* and 130 European Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur* and Eurasian Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto* that were shot in northern Serbia, near the town of Senta. Furthermore a second case occurred mere two months later, at the beginning of November, when smuggling of 700 birds, including Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos*, Common Quails, Grey Partridges *Perdix perdix* and Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*, was discovered.

The use of illegal firearms has also increased (for example shooting with pump action shotguns with more than allowed two cartridges). In order to satisfy the Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) demands of their customers, hunting agencies often use tape recorders, prohibited by both Serbian law and the Bern Convention.

There is a lack of independent, well prepared and objective wardens and inspectors in the field. Those jobs are performed by people close to offenders (either personally, in small town, or by attitudes, hobbies), untrained, ill-equipped and unqualified game wardens often offenders themselves or simply 'looking the other way'.

Every weekend exhibitions and sales of birds take place openly at markets (strictly protected species, also exotics from the CITES list) and no officials react to those as the law requires. Those exhibitions and sales exhibitions are an example how much the laws are not enforced. Courts are not ineffective and the rare fines applied are ridiculously small when compared with the damage done.

## The reasons

Only in the very south of Serbia it was once common to keep and eat wild songbirds. For the rest of the country we claim that the main reason is the lack of control and ineffective fines, even when caught red-handed.

Socio-economic reasons play a role, but cannot be used as an excuse. The wider public usually shows low interest for these topics because of limited knowledge and perceived low priority, including by the media.

## The offenders

Hunters and poachers, songbird keepers, pigeon breeders, taxidermists and others, often interconnected and watching each other back, while working together with local wardens. The most important motive is the generation of illegal revenues, often combined with the interest killing or possession of wild birds in cages, etc.

## Evidence

One can judge about the scale of the problem by the publication of the photos on the Internet of hunters by hunters, showing their killed birds; by visits to the bird exhibitions; also at sales where unknown but large number of freshly caught birds is being sold for export. Unfortunately, no systematic monitoring is taking place due to the limited capacity of NGOs and responsible authorities. Bird transports points such as towns of Subotica in the north, and Nis, Vranje and Pirot in the south show that large numbers are being illegally mist-netted and sold live (according to my informant, in previous years "several million" rings were forced pushed on legs of freshly caught young wild birds, later kept by the songbird keepers).

**Bird species and sites affected**

Game birds, also songbirds, various non-huntable waterbirds, raptors. IBAs, highlands and wetlands that at the same time are hunting grounds are mostly affected as those areas with preserved habitats attract birds in larger numbers.

**Trend**

We estimate the trend as stable

**Taking action**

Unfortunately very limited action is currently being taken by the governmental institutions and NGOs to address this problem.

# Trapping in Cyprus

Martin Hellicar, BirdLife Cyprus [www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)

## **The Facts**

BirdLife Cyprus's monitoring of illegal bird trapping activities continued into the 9<sup>th</sup> year with data gathered systematically in the field (31st August – 8th November 2010) by a trained team of surveyors. All evidence of trapping was passed to the relevant enforcement authorities.

The picture emerging from autumn 2010 is one of a bird trapping disaster on a scale unseen since BirdLife's monitoring work began almost 10 years ago. Trapping levels may still be lower than in the 1990s, but this cannot hide the fact that we are now faced with a conservation emergency in Cyprus.

A 75% increase in mist net use and an 89% increase in limestick setting compared to autumn 2009 are simply unacceptable. Autumn trapping levels have been on a general upward trend for four years now. A nine-year high in mist netting activity represents a serious failure on the part of both Cyprus and the UK (mist netting levels were five times higher in the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area than in Republic areas). As EU Member States, both have obligations under the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to protect birds, and migrant birds in particular.

The estimated toll of around 1.4 million birds within the Famagusta and Larnaca districts represents an ecological disaster, especially when the non-selective nature of trapping is taken into account. Trappers are making hundreds of thousands of Euros by selling blackcaps and other birds to be served up as illegal, expensive *ambelopoulia* delicacies.

Cyprus has now lost serious ground in the battle against bird trapping, an illegal and indiscriminate practice that threatens many bird species of conservation concern, migrants especially.

## **Recommendations**

This situation must be addressed, with urgency and through the state authorities drawing up targeted action plans and allocating additional resources to reversing this situation. A priority area for enforcement action remains the restaurants providing the economic impetus for trapping by buying and serving *ambelopoulia*. The Cyprus Police operation of October 20th 2010 represents a good start in this battle. Priority must also be given to increasing enforcement resources on the ground and changing public attitudes to trapping and eating *ambelopoulia*. Clear condemnations of trapping from Ministers and other key decision-makers and opinion-formers could go a long way towards achieving a shift in public attitude. Such statements could also serve to impress upon judges the seriousness of trapping offences, leading to the imposition of deterrent penalties for those convicted, including jail sentences.

# Wildlife poisoning in the Czech Republic

Zdeněk Vermouzek, [verm@birdlife.cz](mailto:verm@birdlife.cz)

Czech Society for Ornithology [www.cso.cz](http://www.cso.cz)

## **The facts**

Poisoning of “pest” wild animals is common practice on the whole territory of the Czech Republic, despite it is forbidden by the law for more than 50 years. It is directed mainly against foxes and martens, less frequently against otters, ravens and birds of prey. Usually the forbidden carbamate insecticide carbofuran (sold until 2008 under commercial name Furadan) is abused. CSO started its Free Wings programme following bird crime in 2000, there are no exact data of these activities before that time. In the last 10 years seems the extent of poisoning remain stable, probably after rise in the last decade of XX. century.

## **The reasons**

The main reason why people illegally use poison for liquidating the “pest” species is the prevailing opinion that there are too many predators which need to be controlled. Although these activities are prohibited by the law, the state authorities are completely failing in its enforcement – there was not even one convicted and punished poisoner in the known history of the Czech Republic. To this contribute the prevailing public opinion, at least in rural areas, which don't see poisoning as a crime.

## **Bird species affected**

In most of the discovered cases, birds seem not to be the direct target, they are rather accidental but regular victims. Among the most often reported bird victims in the last 5 years 2006 to 2010 are Common Buzzards (67), Rooks (22), White-tailed Eagles (18) and Ravens (14), whereas the very scarce and endangered species like Red Kites (3), Black Kites (3) and Golden Eagle (1) are also reported. However, these numbers represent only the minimum, based on discovered cases documented in the Free Wings database maintained by the Czech Society for Ornithology, as there is no other (official) source of data. The expert guess of real extent is 10x to 20x higher, with the exception of the iconic White-tailed Eagle which has exceptionally high reporting rate. Detailed studies revealing the impact to the populations of bird species are missing, however poisoning is supposed to be at least the limiting factor for population growth of the White-tailed Eagle population and its colonization of new localities.

# Raptor persecution in Sinjsko polje – Croatia

Ivan Budinski, BIOM [www.biom.hr](http://www.biom.hr)

Sinjsko polje is a large carstic field (6 000 ha) in Central Dalmatia. It is a mostly agricultural, settlements are situated only in surrounding foothills and large trees are scattered all around the area. Small numbers of raptors breed there but larger concentrations are present during migration/winter, unfortunately, many of them never leave Sinjsko polje.

## **The facts**

All raptor species are persecuted during hunting in Sinjsko polje from August until February, and on a smaller scale during the non-hunting season. In Croatia, all raptors are protected by law but hunters are still shooting on them during hunting on game birds (e.g. Pheasant, Partridge, Quail, ducks). Raptors are mostly killed in Dalmatia, the most problematic area in Croatia according to protected bird persecution. Problem is pronounced in Sinjsko polje because of the large number of stopovering/wintering raptors. As this shooting constitutes an illegal addition to otherwise legal activity (shooting on protected species during legally organized hunting) we can claim that the responsibility lies with the local hunting association and the way hunting is organised there. Hunters are mostly motivated by traditional approach to raptors as vermin and possibility to shoot on another target, whatever it is. Raptors are rarely taken after being shot, thus we rule out the killing for taxidermy collections. The activity increased during late 90's because many now influential war veterans became hunters. Reasons for shooting on protected species are of historical origin (in Dalmatia almost all birds were hunted) but also because low level of education and very easy procedure to become a hunter. Additional problem is lack of law awareness among not only hunters but even local authorities.

The illegal killing of raptors is causing damage in agriculture and negatively effecting local economy. Sinjsko polje is area in Croatia with largest scale of damage caused by rodents in agriculture and farmers are reporting damage to crops almost every year. Several of them had even stopped production because of too large damages. And also, Sinjsko polje is the largest area with suitable habitat in Croatia without breeding Common Buzzard. In fact, only summer visitors (Montagu's Harrier and Hobby) and Common Kestrel (breeding on pylons) breeds there, all three in a small number. Connection between low number of breeding raptors and explosion of Common Vole during summer months has been proposed to the farmers as an explanation to their problems, but they remain passive.

Monitoring of the shooting pressure is possible because the hunters leave the shot raptors in the field. On the other hand it is impossible to be in the Sinjsko Polje during hunting as the number of hunters is too large and the risk of accidents is high.

## **Species affected**

Species affected are Common Buzzard (killed in thousands during hunting season), Hen Harrier, Common Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Merlin, Long-legged Buzzard but potentially all other raptors.

# Poisoning in Spain and project *VENENO*

David Bodega, SEO/BirdLife [www.seo.org](http://www.seo.org)

This report has been prepared by SEO/BirdLife, coordinator of *Life + Project VENENO* (LIFE08 NAT/E/000062) which aims to achieve a significant reduction of illegal poisoning of Wildlife in Spain, where this problem is one of the main causes of mortality of some of the most endangered species in Europe.

## **Facts**

The illegal poisoning in Spain has its origins mainly in conflicts between predators and game species (rabbit and partridge), and in conflicts between predators (especially wolves) and livestock.

Poisoned baits are a massive and non-selective method for killing predators in Spain, prohibited by national and regional law and punishable under the Spanish Penal Law, which imposes a prison sentence for this crime that can be up to two years.

Despite the ban, an increasing use of poison has been found in recent years. According to experts, the reason for this increase is the decline in game species populations (rabbit, partridge) and the recovery of wolf populations, which has led to increased persecution of predators. Also, poisoned baits used today are more lethal than those used in the past.

The high degree of impunity, which is due to the lack on prevention, surveillance and investigation, is one of the main obstacles to ending with this illegal practice.

The National Strategy Against Illegal Use of Poison Baits in the Natural Environment in Spain was approved in 2004. This Strategy which contains some guidelines to solve this problem has to be developed by the Spanish Autonomous Communities. So far only three Regions have developed regional action plans to combat the illegal poisoning. However, in the framework of the *Life + Project VENENO*, 16 Regional Governments have given their commitment to the approval of action plans and protocols, produced by SEO/ BirdLife, to combat the use of poison.

## **Species affected**

Illegal Poisoning is undoubtedly one of the main threats to biodiversity in Spain. According to the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, in the last 10 years, 2,355 red and black kites, 2,146 griffon vultures, 638 black vultures, 348 egyptian vultures, 114 spanish imperial eagles, 40 bearded vultures, 7 brown bears and 858 specimens of other species have been killed. Furthermore, it should be noted that the poison usually affects the adult reproductive fraction, which decreases productivity and reproductive success, negatively affecting the population dynamics of species. In the case of the red kite, the poison has been its first conservation problem in the last 20 years and remains so today, so that has it led to its listing as "Endangered. "

## **Sites affected**

Based on mortality data of species, provided by the Spanish Autonomous Communities, regions in which most episodes of poison has been detected are Andalucia, Castilla y León and Castilla-La Mancha, followed by Cataluña and Aragon. Keep in mind that the efforts for prevention, surveillance and investigation are very different from place to place.

## **Evidence**

The situation described is based on data provided by the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs and by the Autonomous Communities on cases detected in their respective territories between 2005 and 2010 and on responses to questionnaires sent to those institutions by SEO/BirdLife in the framework of the *Life + Project VENENO*.

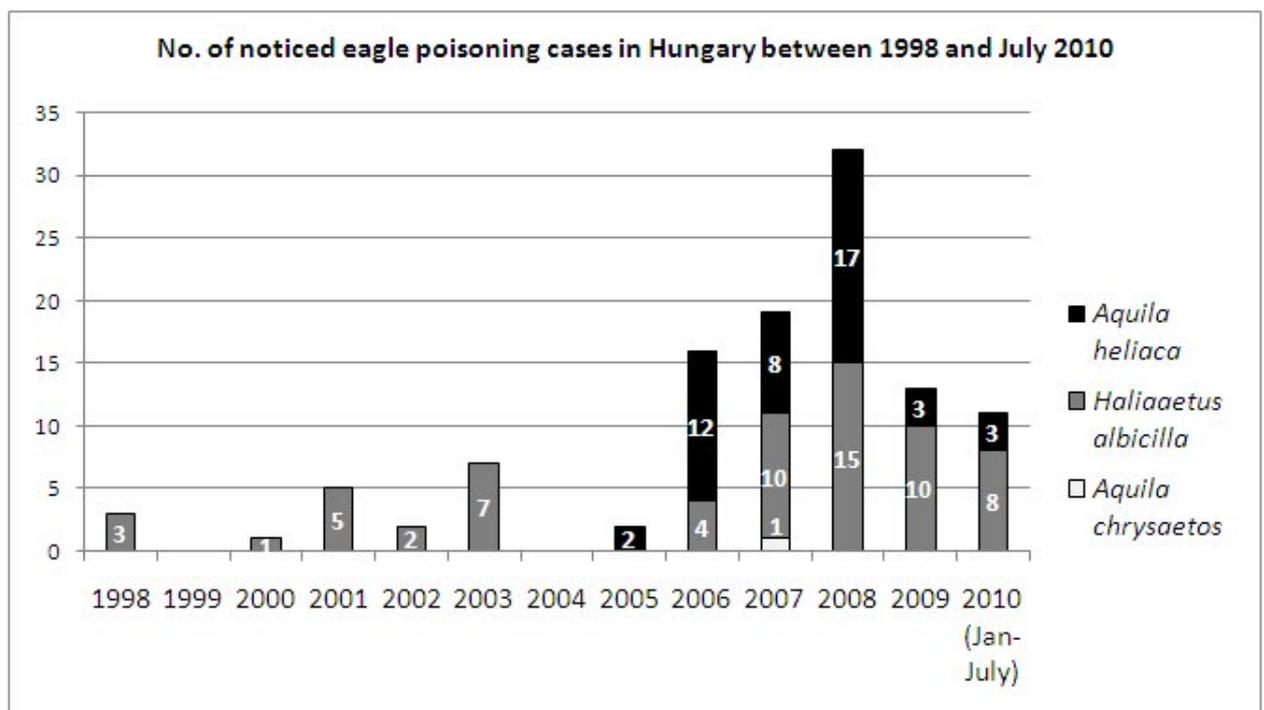
## Poisoning of Eastern Imperial Eagles in Hungary

MME/BirdLife Hungary [www.mme.hu](http://www.mme.hu)

The eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) is a globally threatened Eurasian bird species, with a world population of only a few thousand breeding pairs. Hungary holds the largest population of eastern imperial eagles in the European Union, as the 117 nesting pairs of the country represents 62% of the total EU population in 2010. The population of the imperial eagle is slowly but continuously increasing in Hungary since the 1980's, but this small population is still vulnerable and far from saturation according to the amount and quality of available habitats.

Recently the favourable conservation status of the imperial eagle in Hungary is seriously threatened by the exponentially increasing trend of persecution incidents. Poisoning was not noticed as a mortality factor of imperial eagles in Hungary till 2005, but during the last five years 36 specimens were found poisoned and 9 more were assumed to die directly or indirectly due to poisoning. Moreover other types of intentional persecution of imperial eagles were also reported, as 4 specimens and 2 nests with clutches were shot. Therefore all together most probably 54 imperial eagle specimens became the victim of persecution incidents during the last years, which is equal to 23.1% of the national and 14.2% of the EU's breeding population size in 2010. Besides imperial eagles 932 other protected birds belongs to 20 different species (e.g. 65 *Haliaeetus albicilla*, 12 *Falco cherrug*, 271 *Buteo buteo*) have been found poisoned in Hungary during the last ten years. And these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg, because it is estimated that in average less than 15% of all poison deaths are reported.

If the recent intensity of such illegal activities remains or even continues to increase, it will very probably reverse the population trend of the species in Hungary, and also in the neighbouring countries during the next few years.



# Hen Harriers and Wind Farms in Ireland – Conflicts and Conservation

BirdWatch Ireland [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie)

## **The problem**

The Hen Harrier is an Annex – 1 species on the European Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, and is Amber listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Lynas et al., 2007). The suspected persecution of Hen Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) in Ireland due to conflicts with wind farm interests is an issue which is potentially impacting the conservation status of this sensitive species. Persecution is thought to be mainly occurring through illegal shooting at Hen Harrier breeding grounds in upland habitats. Such activity is illegal under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), European legislation (EU Bird's Directive etc.) and conventions (Bern and Bonn) which Ireland has signed up to.

## **Possible impact**

The majority of information regarding Hen Harrier persecution in Ireland is anecdotal. The lack of confirmed cases, prosecutions and detailed data on Hen Harrier persecution is partly due to the absence of an adequate investigation and enforcement protocol for wildlife crime in Ireland to date. It is therefore not possible to estimate the extent of the problem and its impact on the Hen Harrier population in Ireland. A study carried out by O'Donoghue et al., (2011) which monitored breeding attempts between 2008 and 2010, revealed a breeding success rate of 79.2% in territories where no wind farms were planned (n=53), compared with a success rate of 16.7% in territories where wind farms were planned (n=18), suggesting that harriers associated with wind farm proposals have a significantly higher failure rate than harriers nesting elsewhere ( $\chi^2=12.65$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). Anecdotal evidence (particularly in terms of 'local talk') and abandoned territories, suggests continuance of the activity in 2011.

## **Rationale for persecution**

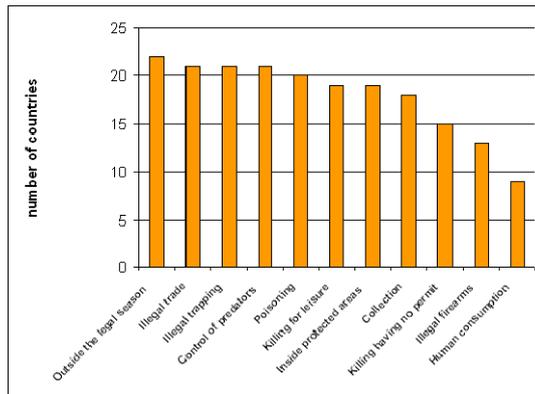
The primary rationale influencing negative attitudes towards Hen Harriers in Ireland, and the main reason behind any incidents of persecution is related to socio-economic factors. In certain upland areas of Ireland there is a general perception that the presence of Hen Harriers will directly impact livelihoods by halting the development of wind farms and also affect other practises such as turf cutting and plantation of forestry. Such aspects represent a source of income for landowners in upland areas which would otherwise be considered to be "non-lucrative" and "poor" farming land, and a small number of proposed developments in such areas have been previously refused permission on the grounds of the threat to Hen Harrier conservation. However the situation has been amplified by certain media, and scare-mongering, rumours and lack of counter-balance information and awareness significantly contributes to the problem.

## **Evidence**

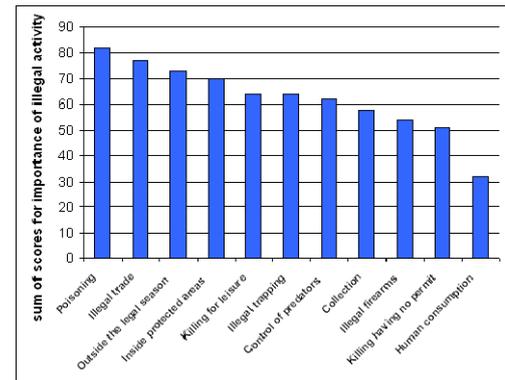
The existing data is primarily anecdotal, although there is some direct evidence of persecution. In 2003, a Hen Harrier carcass, which was later confirmed as being shot was posted to a local newspaper in County Kerry in the south-west of Ireland. This incident is widely viewed as a protest directly related to the Hen Harrier – wind farm development conflict. Negative attitudes to Hen Harriers are also palpable on the ground from specific sectors of society in certain areas of Ireland. However in the absence of systematic monitoring of persecution of Hen Harriers or other wildlife in Ireland it is difficult to enumerate the anecdotal incidents.

## D. Conclusions

1. Illegal killing and taking of birds is a widespread phenomenon and is not primarily restricted to the Mediterranean countries, as often speculated. Our review has shown that such activities occur on a regular basis in most European countries, although their intensity in the Mediterranean and SE European countries is indeed higher.
2. The rate of occurrence of the most commonly reported illegal activities has shown that no activity is a single country issue. In fact, most of the reported activities occurred in 15 or more countries (Fig. 7). The most commonly reported being ‘hunting outside of the legal season’, ‘illegal trade’, ‘illegal trapping’ and persecution for ‘control of predators’.



**Figure 7 Occurrence of illegal activities by country**



**Figure 8 Ranking of illegal activities in order of reported importance**

3. By collecting information about the scale of occurrence of each activity within the individual countries and by taking into account the species affected and the expected impact (based on expert judgement) we were able to rank the illegal activities according to their importance (Fig. 8). The most important illegal activities were ‘poisoning’, ‘illegal trade’ and the violation of the hunting seasons and protected areas regimes that exclude hunting.
4. Deliberate poisoning of wildlife appears to be the activity of highest importance, mainly due to its impact on already threatened species (e.g. scavengers) but also because it is increasing in at least nine countries. The free access to agri-chemicals and ineffective control over their use, combined with the existing antagonism toward predators and economic drivers exacerbate the situation, as evidenced in a number of countries (see case studies).
5. Despite of the wide range of illegal activities reported from 35 countries, it is still possible to identify geographical patterns of these activities as well as to speculate about trends of how the situation is evolving. These patterns however require deeper investigation and our findings could serve as a guiding tool for such analyses.
6. Particular attention should be drawn to the risk of ‘exporting of the problem’ from countries and regions with better enforcement (typically within the EU27), to countries with weaker enforcement systems in place (but having birds). For example, the organised illegal hunting and export of birds for trade on the Italian market (as reported by several SE European countries – see case studies); the almost non-existent control on hunting on behalf of the authorities in

several SE and E European countries (see country fact sheets). Here we should note that the geographical limits of our survey did not allow us to understand fully the magnitude of this problem. Evidence published elsewhere suggests that the risk of ‘exporting’ is even higher in the countries of Africa and the Middle East.

7. Finally, we conclude that the conservation and sustainable use of bird populations in Europe is still under serious question. Sustainability requires at least two key elements: Knowledge and Effective Regulation. Our results show that neither of the two has yet reached satisfactory levels in our region. Therefore, BirdLife considers that all European countries and institutions should contribute much more resources to:
  - a. Systematic monitoring of bird populations and the levels of killing (taking into account all other important threats, including hunting).
  - b. Effective law enforcement based on modern regulation.

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# Armenia

Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds  
April 2011

In Armenia, there is no official control of the species being hunted: laws exist but there is no enforcement and no control by the state inspectors. Most often the species are hunted randomly in light of the recent institutional changes in the system of hunting associations. More than 13 protected species are concerned which includes ducks, buzzards and eagles; and this activity has increased in the last 10 years. Killing using illegal firearms or means of transport, or outside the legal season are also widespread activities.

## I. Species affected

*Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aquila clanga*  
→ Killing for "Leisure"

*Aquila clanga* and *Falco cherrug*  
→ Taxidermy

*Anas strepera*, *Anas querquedula*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya ferina*, *Netta rufina*, *Aythya nyroca* and *Grus grus*  
→ Illegal means of transport

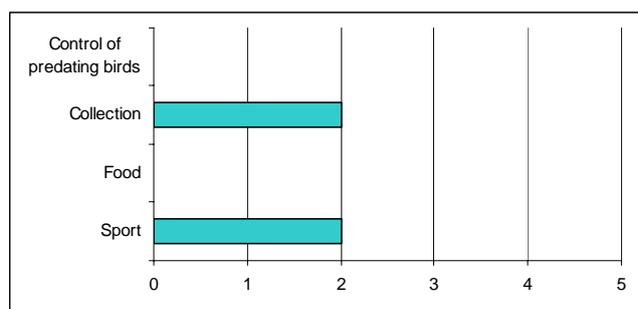
*Aquila pomarina*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Anas querquedula*, *Anas crecca*, *Netta rufina*, *Aythya ferina*, *Plegadis falcinellus* and *Platalea leucorodia*  
→ Killing of protected species

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing outside the legal season	3	+1
Illegal firearms or transport	3	0
Killing of protected birds	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	3	0
Leisure	3	+1

# Austria

BirdLife Austria  
May 2010

Illegal activities against birds have remained stable in the last 10 years in Austria. The poisoning and the shooting of raptors is still an important and quite well documented issue for the country, as well as the illegal trade of birds.

## I. Species affected

*Bubo bubo*, *Buteo buteo*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Corvus frugilegus*, *Corvus cornix*, *Corvus corone*, *Garrulus glandarius* and *Pica pica*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

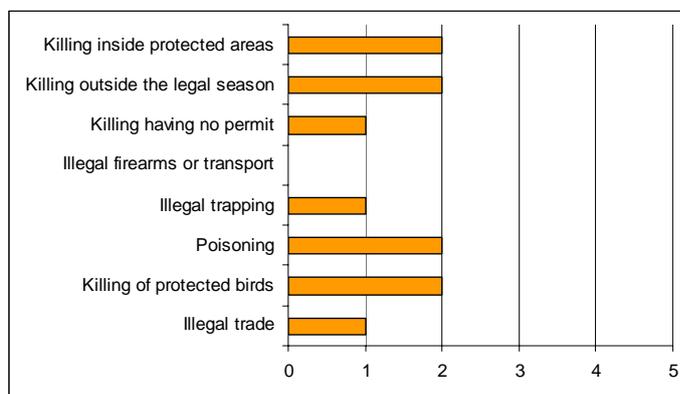
Raptors species and *Corvus spp.*

→ Poisoning

Waterfowl and gulls

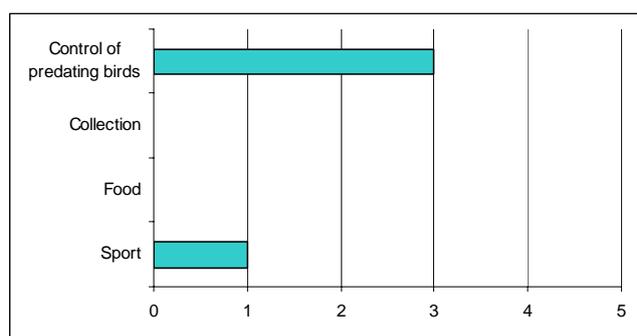
→ Killing for leisure

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Killing having no permit	1	-
Illegal trapping	1	0
Poisoning	4	0
Killing of protected birds	2	0
Illegal trade	1	-

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	0
Sport	1	0

# Republic of Belarus

APB - BirdLife Belarus  
May 2011

Belarus is facing specific issues regarding illegal killing of birds, such as killing raptors for taxidermy or for recreation (mostly birds that are tolerant to human presence such as Lesser-Spotted Eagle and Great Grey Owl). Killing in protected areas, outside the legal season or with no permit are activities that still occur but that have decreased in the last 10 years.

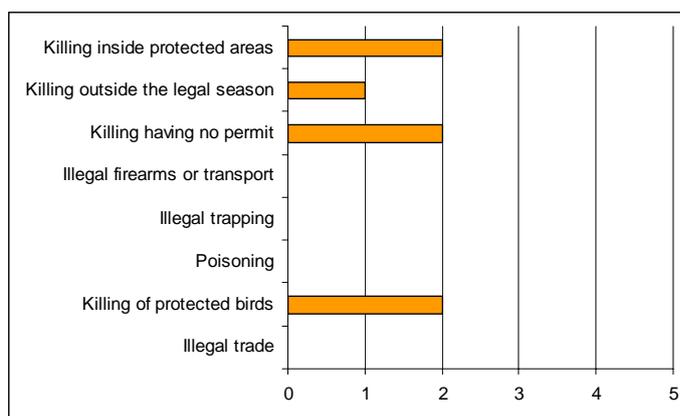
There are increasing problems such as the killing of protected species due to misidentification by hunters. For example, protected species of Anatidae mostly mixed up with game species of the similar appearance: Lesser white-fronted goose being killed instead of White-fronted and Bean goose. And also, birds of prey and owls being occasionally caught into traps charged on game species of mammals.

## I. Species affected

*Strix nebulosa*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Bubo bubo*  
→ Taxidermy

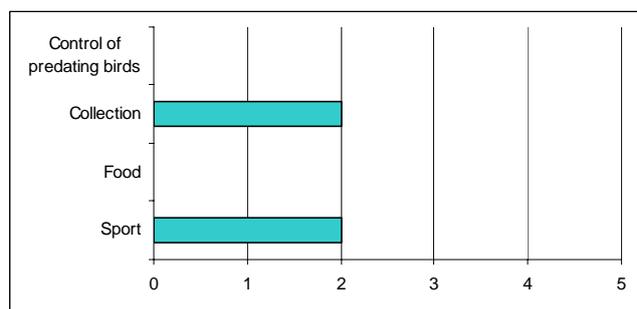
Birds of Prey and Owls tolerant to human presence like *Aquila pomarina* and *Strix nebulosa*  
→ Random killing of protected species

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	0	-2
Killing having no permit	1	-1
Killing of protected birds	3	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	3	-1
Leisure	1	+1

# Belgium

Natuurpunt and Natagora  
May 2010 – May 2011

The two main Belgian issues regarding illegal activities against birds are the poisoning of raptors and the capturing bird species for keeping them in cages.

Goshawk and common buzzard are mentioned as affected by poisoning in Flanders. In Wallonia, Shooting or poisoning of raptor probably also still occurs at a very small degree (local cases of reported hunting guards acting like this). The Nature and Forest Administration has put in place for about 10 years a special unit of guards specially trained in the pursuit of illegal activities including illegal trapping of birds, and they are apparently quite effective.

Illegal trapping or capturing of wetland species and finches for keeping them in cages is the second most important activity on the territory. There are also some reports of stealing eggs of *Ciconia nigra* and *Milvus milvus* in the Ardennes.

Killing for control of predators in Belgium aims mainly *Ardea cinerea* and *Phalacrocorax carbo*, although derogation for shooting are also issued (it is now difficult to assess the difference between authorized culling and non-authorized culling).

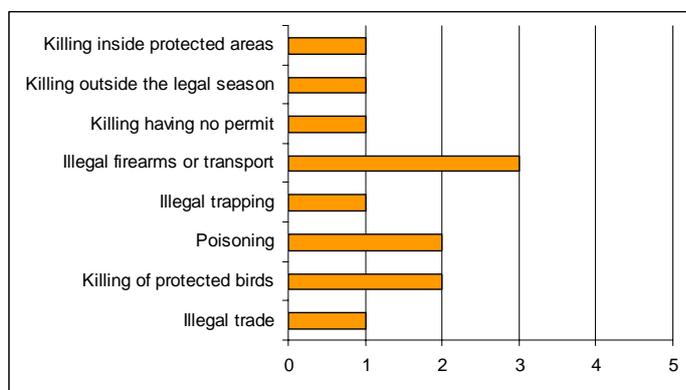
## I. Species affected

*Accipiter gentilis* and *Buteo buteo*  
→ Poisoning

*Recurvirostra avocetta*, *Ardea spp.* and other wetland species, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Fringilla coelebs*.  
→ Taking for keeping birds alive

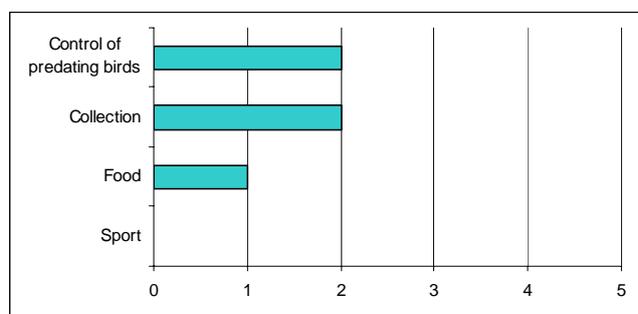
*Egretta alba*, but mostly *Ardea cinerea* and *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
→ Killing predators

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	+1
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Killing having no permit	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	2	+1
Illegal trapping	1	0
Poisoning	1	0
Killing of protected birds	2	+1
Illegal trade	1	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	1	0
Collection	2	0
Human consumption	1	+1

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ornithological society Nase ptice  
March 2011

A wide range of various illegal activities against birds occur and their importance has been increasing in the last 10 years in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Killing of predators such as cormorants and herons, killing for human consumption and killing of raptors for taxidermy and collection are the most widespread. The use of illegal methods such as illegal firearms and means of transports are also pointed out, especially in wetlands. In general control of illegal activities is very weak and very rare is case to make some sanction. Another problem is the financing of protected areas, for example in RAMSAR nature park Hutovo blato, rangers have not been working in the last 18 months because of no payment.

## I. Species affected

*Phalacrocorax carbo* and *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Ardea sp.* and *Egretta sp.*

→ Killing for control of predators

*Fulica atra*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Anthus sp.* and *Alauda arvensis*.

→ Killing for human consumption

*Aquila sp.*, *Falco sp.*, *Bubo bubo* and *Tetrao urrugalus*.

→ Collection after taxidermy treatment

All wetland species

→ Illegal means of transport

*Anas sp.*, *Aythya sp.*

→ Illegal trapping

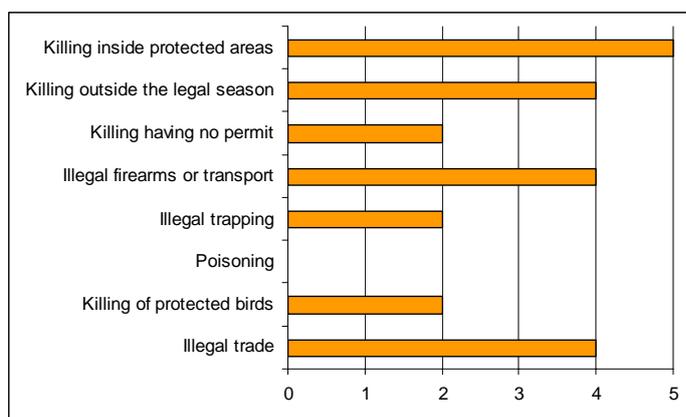
*Fulica atra*, *Anas sp.*, *Aythya sp.*, *Alectoris graeca*, *Perdix perdix* and *Coturnix coturnix*.

→ Illegal firearms

*Tetrao urogallus*, *Anas sp.*

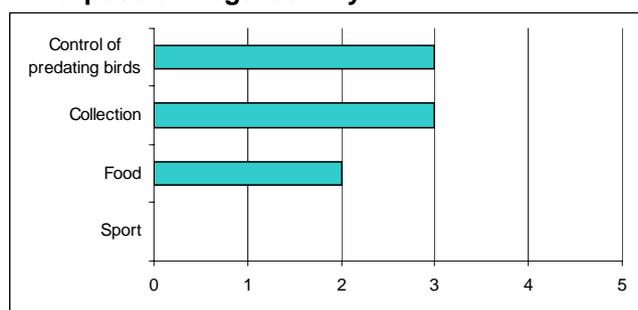
→ Killing for illegal trade (national)

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	+2
Killing outside the legal season	1	+1
Killing having no permit	1	+2
Illegal firearms or transport	3	+1
Illegal trapping	1	+1
Killing of protected birds	3	+1
Illegal trade	3	+2

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	+1
Collection	3	0
Human consumption	3	0

# Bulgaria

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds  
February 2010

There are various issues concerning the illegal killing of birds in Bulgaria, such as the illegal shooting of predators and protected species, the poisoning of falcons (with poison laid pigeons), the use of illegal firearms and means of transport against game and non game species, and the collection of birds for taxidermy. In recent years it has been proven that illegal trade of rare species (Egyptian vulture, Bonelli's eagle) also occur having impact on some of the most endangered species. Currently there are between 50 and 100 people with serious interest in falconry, which have or want to have different species of birds of prey. Finally, illegal trapping is probably a very serious problem underestimated until this moment.

## I. Species affected

*Branta ruficollis, Anser anser, Cygnus spp., Pelecanidae spp. and all raptors except for vultures.*

→ Killing for Leisure/vandalism

*Buteo buteo, Buteo rufinus, Accipiter gentilis, Falco peregrinus, Phalacrocorax carbo, Pelecanidae spp., Ardea spp. and Egretta spp.*

→ Killing for control of predators

All birds of prey, Ardeidae spp., Anatidae spp.

→ Collection/Taxidermy

*Falco peregrinus and Falco cherrug*

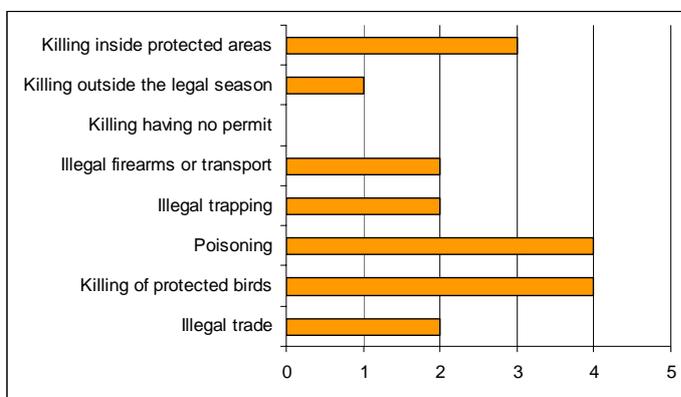
→ Poisoning

*Branta ruficollis, Anser albifrons, Perdix perdix, Phasianus colchicus, Anatidae spp.*

→ Illegal means of transport

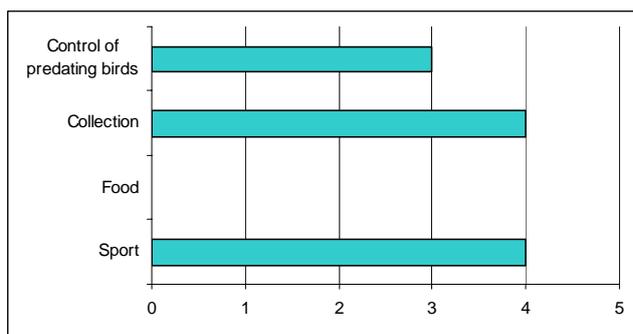
→ Illegal firearms

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	4	-1
Killing outside the legal season	-	-1
Illegal firearms or transport	3	+1
Illegal trapping	3	+1
Poisoning	3	+1
Killing of protected birds	4	-1
Illegal trade	3	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	-1
Collection	4	-1
Sport	4	0

# Croatia

BIOM  
April 2011

Illegal activities against birds, such as poisoning, illegal trade, illegal killing of predators, illegal trapping etc. are widespread and have important conservation impact in Croatia. The importance of killing in protected areas, with no permit and outside the legal season has decreased in the last 10 years. Here is a non exhaustive list of examples of activities that are typical for this country:

- High rate of protected waterbirds killed during legal hunting season because of misidentification by hunters.
- Illegal techniques are widely used, especially tape-recorders for Quail, Coot and ducks and also plastic decoys for ducks.
- Killing of Cranes in stopover areas just for fun.
- Finches are caught for keeping in cage.
- Blackbird, robin etc. are caught under flat stones for Human consumption in southern Adriatic.
- There is a conflict in protected areas that are also commercial fishponds which results in killing fish-eating birds.
- And finally, bird observation, research or photography sometimes used as a cover for illegal collecting of birds and eggs.

## I. Species affected

*Accipiter gentilis*, *Emberiza citrinella*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Carduelis flammea* *Carduelis* spp., *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, *Turdus merula* and *Erithacus rubecula*.

→ Illegal trapping

*Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aquila chrysaetos* and *Corvus corax*

→ Poisoning

*Protected species of waterbirds*

→ Misidentification with huntable species

*Buteo buteo*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Bubo bubo*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo* and *Corvus corax*

→ Control of predators

*Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Carduelis flammea*, *Carduelis spinus*, *Monticola soladarius*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Bubo bubo*.

→ Taking for keeping birds alive

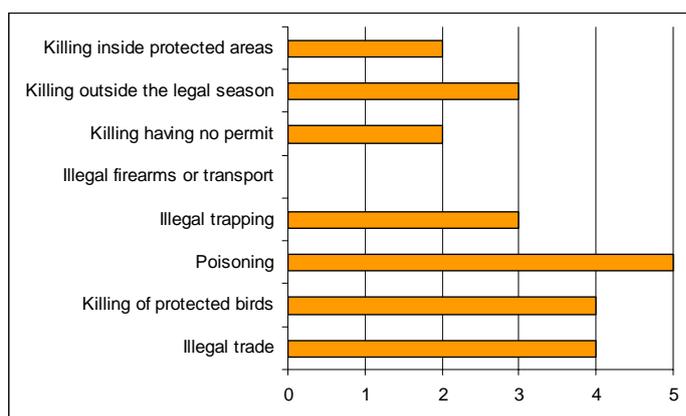
*Aythya nyroca*, *Fulica atra*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Turdus pilaris*, *Turdus merula*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Moorhen*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Alauda arvensis* and other protected ducks and geese.

→ Killing for human consumption

*Coturnix coturnix*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Protected ducks and geese*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, *Carduelis flammea*, *Carduelis spinus* and *Alectoris graeca*.

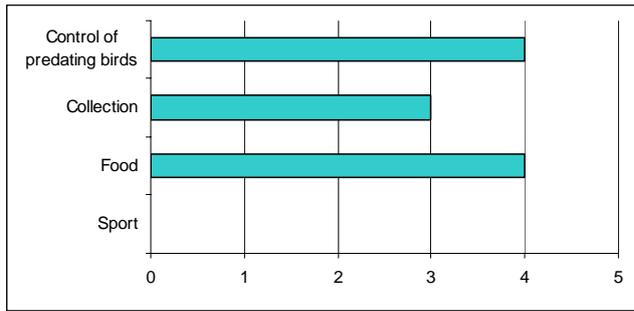
→ Illegal trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	3	-1
Killing having no permit	1	-1
Illegal trapping	3	0
Poisoning	0	-
Killing of protected birds	3	0
Illegal trade	3	0

### III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	1	0
Collection	3	0
Human consumption	3	0

# Cyprus

BirdLife Cyprus  
February 2010

The major issue in Cyprus is the illegal trapping for human consumption of basically any bird that can be caught in nets or on lime sticks. This activity affects many passerines (see below) but also bee-eaters, scops owls, nightjar, etc. Poison is used for hunting/stray dogs or foxes but it affects griffon vulture and raven, which are now almost extinct. Some hunters will shoot gulls, finches, larks, swallows, house martins, and raptors but we estimate numbers to be relatively small. Regarding the use of illegal firearms, it mostly concerns firearms that can fire more than two shots, and shooting at night. Illegal trade of birds is also quite important; it affects all kind of species, from parrots and parakeets to raptors, ducks, wildfowl, ostriches, etc but data and controls are very scarce.

## I. Species affected

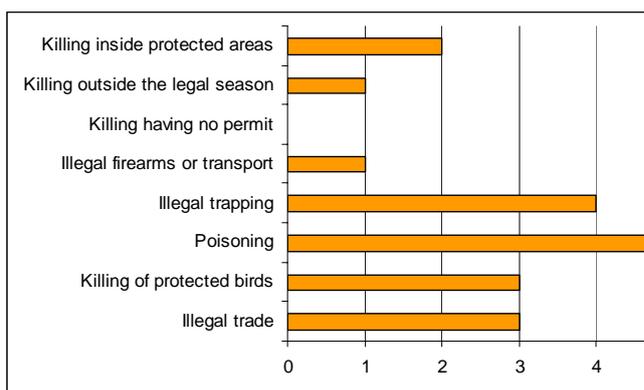
*Sylvia atricapilla*, *Sylvia melanothorax*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Sylvia communis*, *Sylvia curruca*, *Alaudidae spp.*, *Fringillidae spp.*, *Laniidae spp.*, *Passer spp etc.*

- Trapping
- Human consumption

*Gyps fulvus*, *Corvus corax*

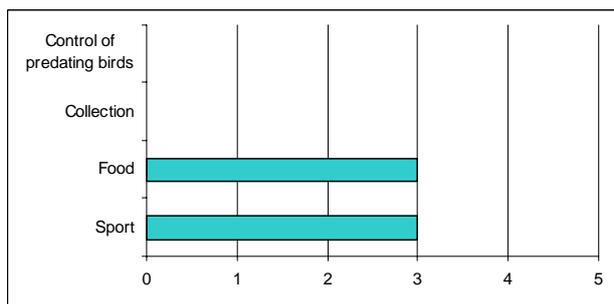
- Poisoning

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	4	-1
Killing having no permit	3	-
Illegal firearms or transport	3	-1
Illegal trapping	5	+2
Poisoning	3	-1
Killing of protected birds	4	+2
Illegal trade	4	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Human consumption	5	-1
Leisure	4	0

# Czech Republic

Czech Society for Ornithology  
February 2010

Killing for control of predators is the main purpose of illegal activities in Czechia. Poisoning of birds of prey, such as *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Milvus spp.*, *Buteo buteo*, other raptors and owls, has increased in the last 10 years. Sport hunting in Czechia is usually connected to taxidermy but its importance is not concerning so far. It is the same for the illegal trade of cage birds that has decreased a lot.

## I. Species affected

*Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Corvus spp.*, *Ardea spp.* including rarer species, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

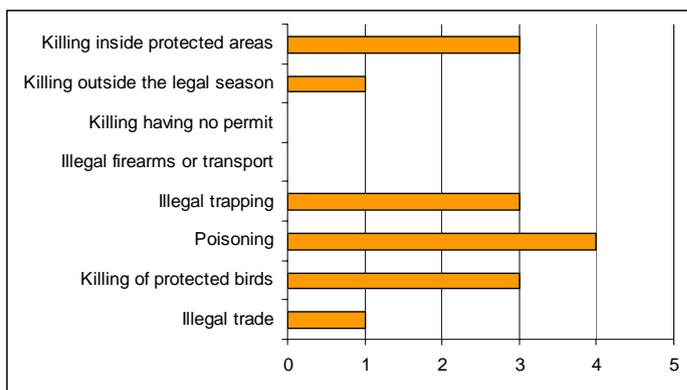
*Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Buteo buteo*, *Corvus spp.*, *Milvus migrans* and *Milvus milvus*.

→ Poisoning, at least partly as unintended victims

*Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus* and *Buteo buteo*

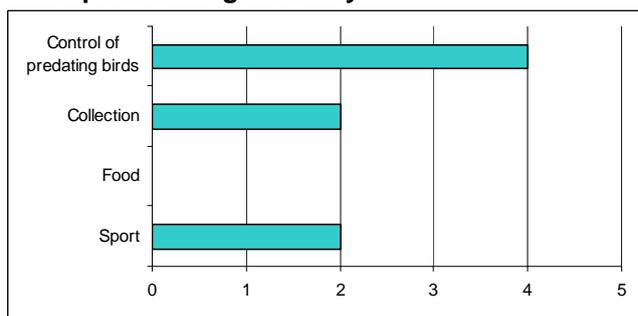
→ Trapping

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	-
Illegal trapping	2	0
Poisoning	4	+1
Killing of protected birds	2	0
Illegal trade	1	-2

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	0
Collection	2	-1
Leisure	1	0

# Denmark

Dansk Ornitologisk Forening  
May 2010

Several illegal activities against birds are to be mentioned in Denmark, although the importance of many of them is decreasing. The killing of predators (birds of prey but also competitor species such as crows, gulls) is the biggest issue. Most of these birds are being poisoned but can also get trapped or shot. From a conservation point of view, goshawk is the main species which populations are negatively affected both locally and nationally by this type of targeted killing.

Because of the very high intensity of hunting activity in Denmark (ducks, swans, geese, waders etc.), we suppose that quite a lot of protected species are also affected but the evidence is limited. The illegal trade with birds for cage/captivity purpose seems to have decreased in the last years but is still out of control.

## I. Species affected

*Accipiter gentilis*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Corvidae species* and *Laridea species*.

- Killing for 'control' of predators
- Trapping
- Illegal firearms
- Poisoning ?

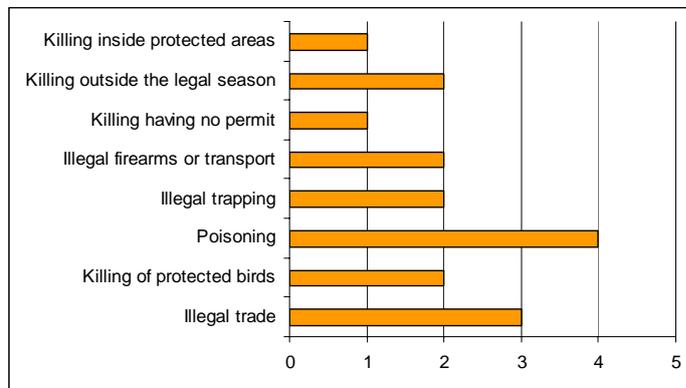
*Corvidae species*, *Laridea species*, *Buteo buteo* and *Milvus milvus*.

- Poisoning

Colonial breeding birds such as *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Corvidae species* and *Laridea species*. Common urban breeding birds such as *Hirundinidae species*, *Corvus monedula*, *Pica pica* and *Sturnus vulgaris*.

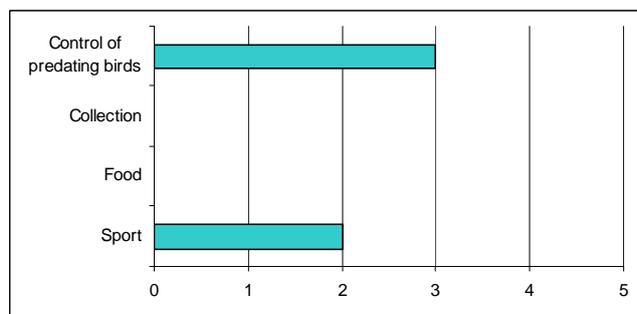
- Vandalism

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	0
Killing outside the legal season	3	-1
Killing having no permit	3	0
Illegal firearms or transport	2	-
Illegal trapping	3	-1
Poisoning	3	-1
Killing of protected birds	2	-1
Illegal trade	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	-1
Leisure	2	0

# Estonia

Estonian Ornithological Society  
May 2010

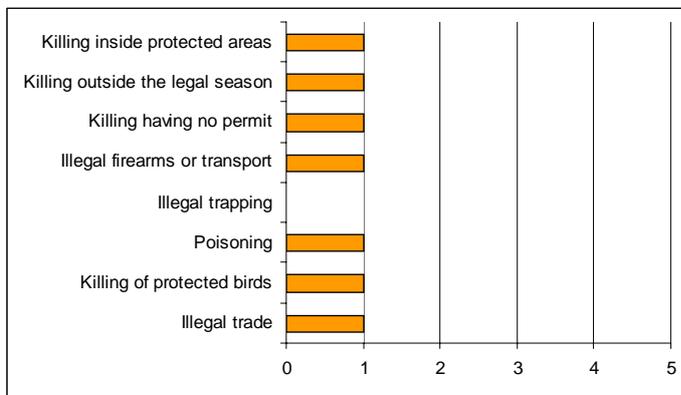
Illegal activities against birds are not common in Estonia. The killing of birds considered as predators, such as cormorants, goshawks, buzzards, is the only activity that is increasing and has a relative importance in the country. Cormorants are the only exception where some serious illegal killing exists in some islands or regions, probably by fishermen.

## I. Species affected

*Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Acipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus* and *Buteo buteo*.

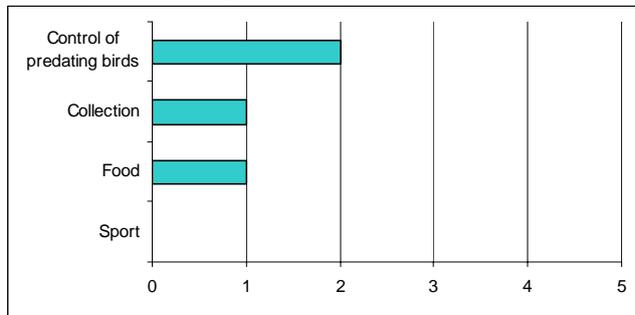
→ Killing for control of predators

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	0
Killing outside the legal season	4	0
Killing having no permit	3	-1
Illegal firearms or transport	4	0
Illegal trapping	4	0
Poisoning	4	0
Killing of protected birds	4	0
Illegal trade	4	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	+1
Collection	5	0
Human consumption	5	0

# Finland

BirdLife Finland  
March 2010

In Finland, the main issue regarding illegal killing of birds is the killing of raptors, such as goshawk, eagle owl and golden eagle. There is also the tradition to destroy nests of some species hunters see as pests like Herring Gull, but it has impact also to other avifauna via identification of the eggs. The network of roads for forestry has increased a lot during couple of decades and especially in eastern Finland we have got many reports on shooting mainly black grouse from vehicles.

## I. Species affected

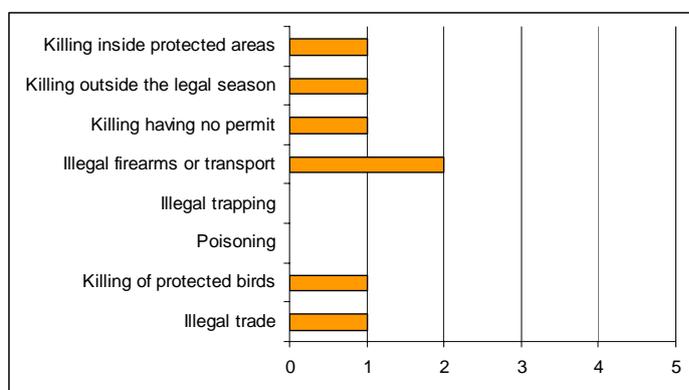
*Accipiter gentilis*, *Bubo bubo*, *Larus argentatus* and *Aquila chrysaetos*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Tetrao tetrix* and *Tetrao urogallus*

→ Shooting from cars

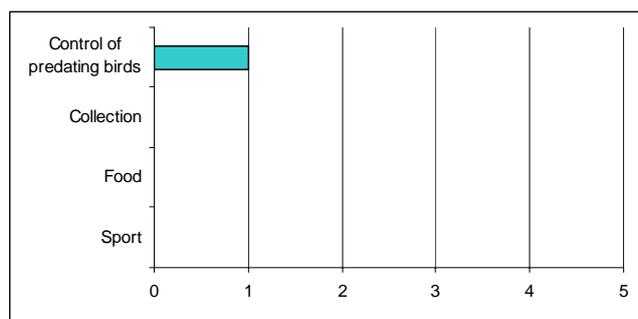
## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Killing having no permit	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	2	+1
Killing of protected birds	2	-1
Illegal trade	-	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	-1

# France

LPO  
March 2010

The types of illegal activities against birds in France vary a lot between regions. Nationally, the country is facing many methods and purposes of activities that have important conservation impacts on bird species, such as trapping of passerines for human consumption, the use of stone trap, netting liming or trapping with playback of waterfowl, the poisoning and shooting of vultures and other raptors and the illegal trade of cage birds.

## I. Species affected

*Gyps fulvus, Platalea leucorodia, Phalacrocorax carbo, Ardea cinerea, Gypaetus barbatus and Ciconia ciconia.*

→ Killing for Leisure/vandalism

*Emberiza hortulana, Fringilla montifringilla, Erithacus rubecula, Fringilla coelebs and Alauda arvensis*

→ Illegal trapping

→ Human consumption

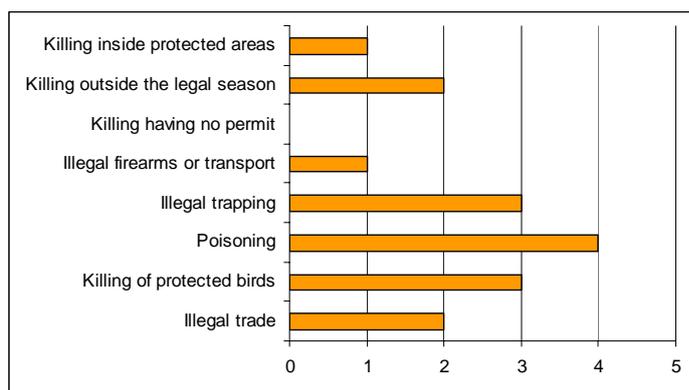
*Carduelis spinus, Carduelis cannabina, Carduelis carduelis, Carduelis chloris and Serinus serinus*

→ Illegal trade of cage birds

*Milvus migrans, Gyps fulvus, Gypaetus barbatus, Milvus milvus, Neophron percnopterus*

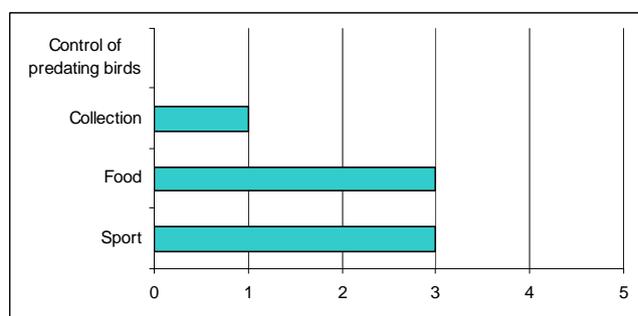
→ Poisoning

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	0
Killing outside the legal season	2	0
Illegal firearms or transport	1	0
Illegal trapping	2	0
Poisoning	3	+1
Killing of protected birds	2	0
Illegal trade	2	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	2	0
Human consumption	2	0
Leisure	2	0

# Germany

NABU  
May 2010

The main issue in Germany is the illegal trapping, poisoning and shooting of all species of predators: all birds of prey, all corvids species and recently cormorants. Another increasing problem is the shooting of protected wild geese species.

## I. Species affected

*Anserinae spp.*

→ Illegal shooting

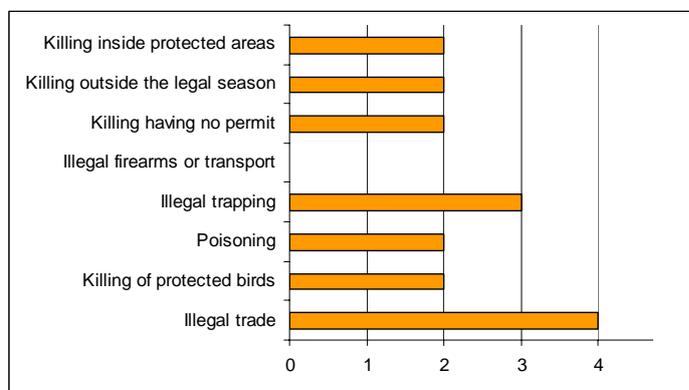
*All species of raptors and Corvidae spp.*

→ Illegal shooting

→ Illegal trapping

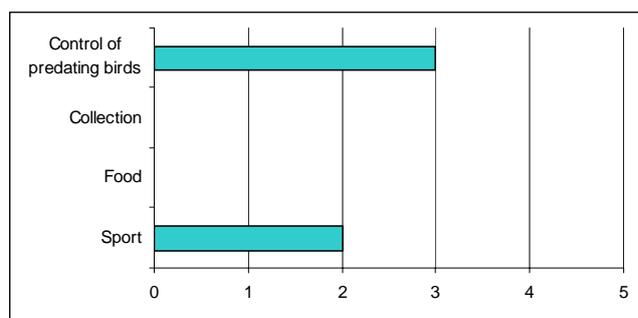
→ Poisoning

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	-2
Killing outside the legal season	1	-1
Killing having no permit	3	-1
Illegal trapping	4	0
Poisoning	3	0
Killing of protected birds	4	0
Illegal trade	3	-1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	5	+1
Leisure	4	0

# Greece

Hellenic Ornithological Society  
May 2010

Illegal activities against birds are widespread and have important conservation impact on many species in Greece. The main activities are: poisoning of raptors, illegal trapping and illegal trade for falconry and cage birds and the shooting of birds for leisure/vandalism.

## I. Species affected

*Gyps fulvus, Gypaetus barbatus, Neophron percnopterus, Aegypius monachus, Aquila chrysaetos, Aquila sp., Buteo rufinus, Falco peregrinus*

→ Poisoning

*Falco spp., Accipiter spp., Circus spp., Bubo bubo, Anser erythropus, Aythya nyroca, Crex crex, Plegadis falcinellus*

→ Shooting

*Aquila spp., Hieraaetus fasciatus, Falco peregrinus, Bubo bubo, Accipiter gentilis, Ardea cinerea, Pelecanus spp.*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

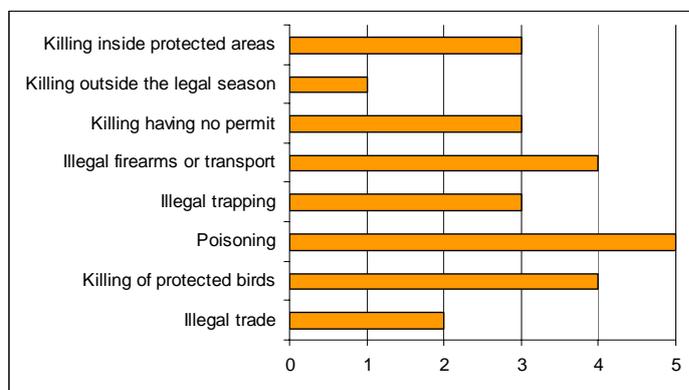
*Carduelis spp., Serinus serinus, Fringila montifringilla, Fringila coelebs, Coccothraustes coccothraustes, Melanocorypha calandra, Alauda arvensis, Turdus spp., Monticola solitarius, Parus major, Erithacus rubecula, Emberiza spp., Upupa epops.*

→ Trapping

*Carduelis spp., Serinus serinus, Fringila montifringilla, Fringila coelebs, Coccothraustes coccothraustes, Melanocorypha calandra, Turdus spp., Emberiza spp., Tyto alba, Falco tinnunculus, Falco peregrinus, Falco biarmicus, Otus scops, Athene noctua*

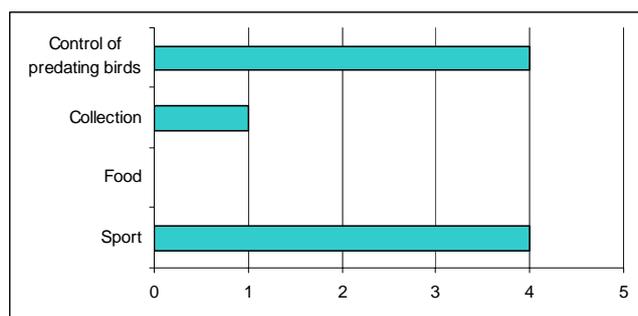
→ Illegal national trade (cage birds, falconry).

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	3	-1
Killing having no permit	3	+1
Illegal firearms or transport	2	0
Illegal trapping	3	0
Poisoning	4	+1
Killing of protected birds	2	0
Illegal trade	2	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	0
Collection	2	0
Leisure	2	-1

# Hungary

MME BirdLife Hungary  
May 2010

In Hungary, the most common problem is the poisoning of raptors for the purpose of predator control, which frequency has increased exponentially since 2005. Shooting to the nests of raptors and corvids also happens. Protected species of waterfowl are shot intentionally or because of misidentification.

## I. Species affected

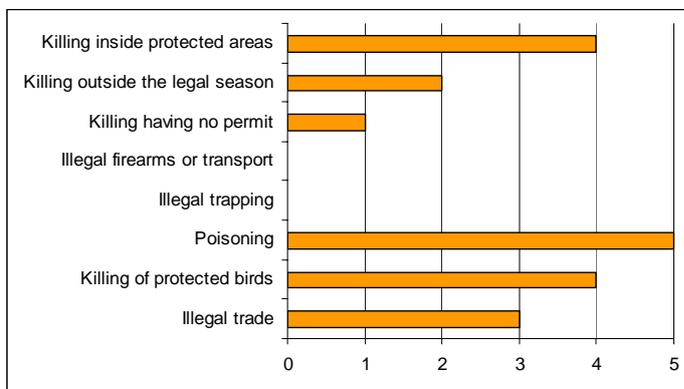
*Aquila heliaca, Haliaeetus albicilla, Buteo buteo, Circus aeruginosus*

- Poisoning
- Shooting

*Passeriformes*

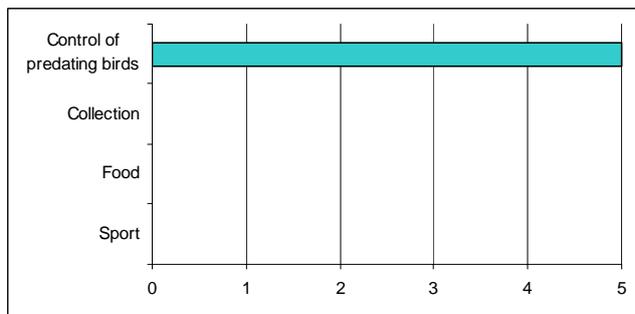
- Illegal trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	4	+1
Killing outside the legal season	2	0
Killing having no permit	1	0
Poisoning	5	+2
Killing of protected birds	5	+2
Illegal trade	4	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	5	+2

# Ireland

BirdWatch Ireland  
May 2010

In Ireland, radio tagged birds have highlighted the issue of the use of meat based poisons targeting birds of prey. At a regional level some records of large-scale raptor poisonings exist but the recording of activities is inconsistent across regions and there is no national level database for collation of poisoning records.

No data exists for illegal egg collection, apart from some records at a regional level, but it is suspected to be a significant issue given low levels of monitoring on nesting sites. Hen Harrier primarily is being targeted by shooting and by nest destruction on Hen Harrier SPAs that may have potential for wind energy. Limited evidence but clear indications this is occurring through missing pairs of birds, reduced productivity and local knowledge (see case study).

## I. Species affected

*Falco spp.*, *Buteo buteo*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Milvus milvus* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

→ Poisoning

*Fringillidae spp.*

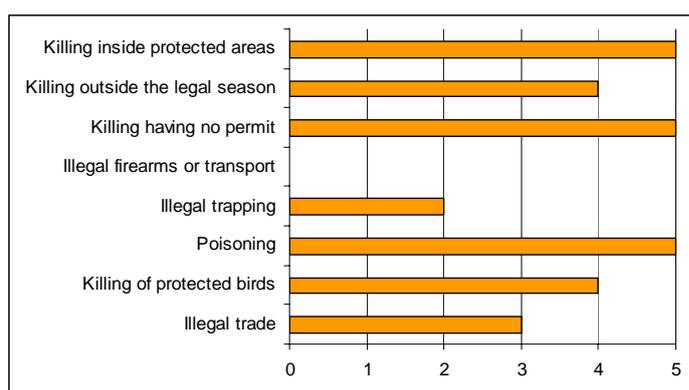
→ Trapping

*Circus cyaneus*

→ Illegal shooting

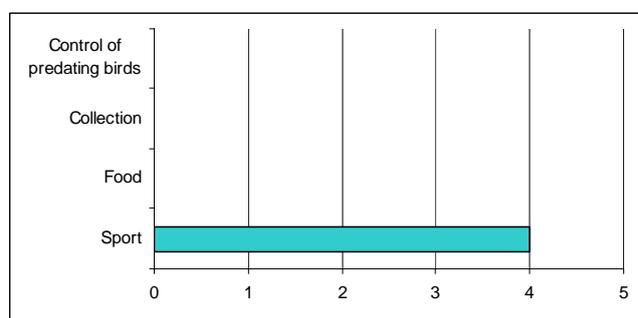
→ Nest destroying

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	+1
Killing outside the legal season	2	0
Killing having no permit	2	0
Illegal trapping	1	0
Poisoning	4	+1
Killing of protected birds	1	0
Illegal trade	1	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Leisure	3	-1

# Italy

LIPU  
February 2010

Illegal activities against birds are widespread and have major conservation impact on many species in Italy. The main activities are: the use of illegal firearms, the illegal trade for falconry and cage birds, the illegal trapping of passerines for human consumption, the poisoning of raptors and the shooting of any birds for Leisure/vandalism.

## I. Species affected

*Buteo buteo, Falco spp., Ardea spp., Ciconia spp., Grus grus, Strigiformes, Piciformes and Passeriformes*  
→ Killing for Leisure/vandalism

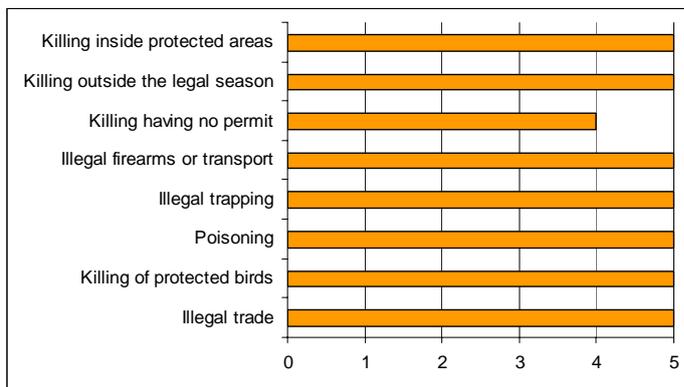
*Passeriformes*  
→ Human consumption  
→ Illegal trapping

*Ciconiformes, Anseriformes, Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, Scolapacidae, Strigiformes, Columbiformes, Passeriformes*  
→ Illegal firearms

*Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, Strigiformes*  
→ Poisoning

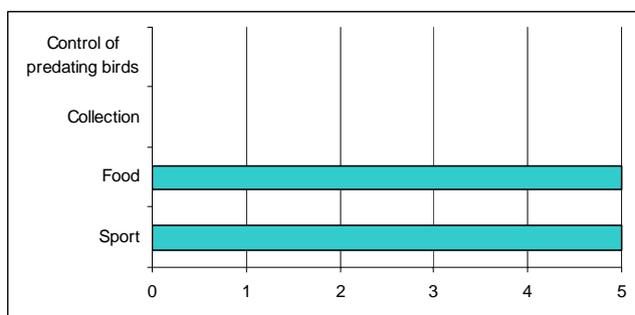
*Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, Strigiformes, Psittaciformes, Passeriformes*  
→ Trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	5	0
Killing outside the legal season	5	0
Killing having no permit	5	0
Illegal firearms or transport	5	0
Illegal trapping	5	0
Poisoning	5	0
Killing of protected birds	5	0
Illegal trade	5	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Human consumption	5	0
Leisure	5	0

# Latvia

LOB  
May 2010

In Latvia, illegal activities against birds are rare and do not threaten species conservation. However, cormorant and white tailed eagle are getting killed for the 'control' of predators and some waterbirds get shot during the hunting season, such as crested grebe, grey heron, herring gull etc. Almost all birds that are killed illegally are shot.

## I. Species affected

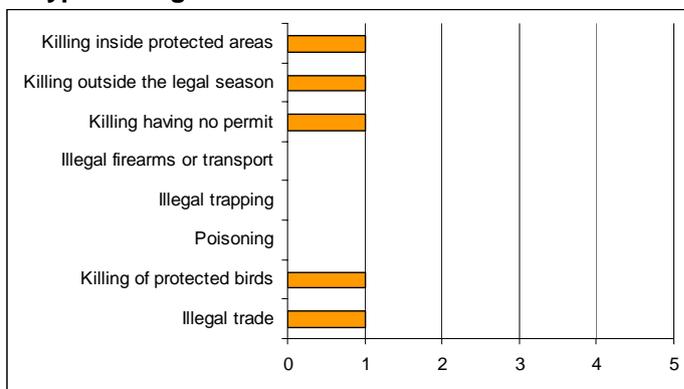
*Phalacrocorax carbo* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Podiceps cristatus*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Larus argentatus*.

→ Shooting

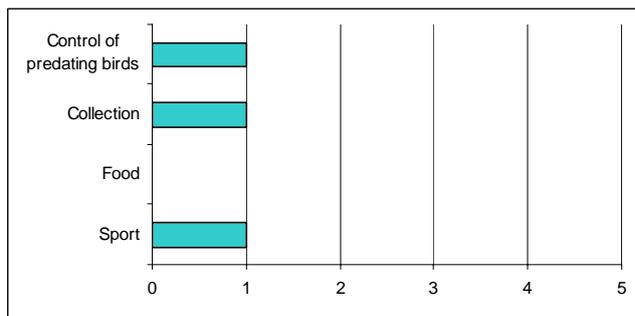
## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Killing having no permit	1	0
Killing of protected birds	1	0
Illegal trade	-	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	1	0
Collection	1	0
Leisure	2	0

# Lithuania

Lithuanian Ornithological Society  
May 2010

In Lithuania, we observe an increasing trend in killing predators such as cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and to a lesser extent birds of prey. Ducks and geese are getting killed for human consumption. Collecting bird specimen for taxidermy treatment is also happening in Lithuania. Killing of adult birds as well as chicks and eggs of birds which are considered nuisance and damage to buildings (*Delichon urbica*, *Corvus frugilegus*, etc.) is really widespread. Killing of starlings and other "berries-eaters" (trushes, etc.) seems also quite common in Lithuania.

## I. Species affected

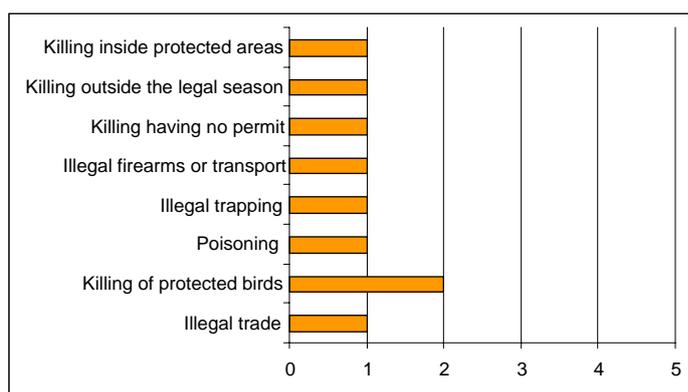
*Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Larus canus* and *L. ridibundus*  
→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Anatidae spp.*, *Anser spp.* and *Cygnos olor*  
→ Human consumption

*Delichon urbica*, *Corvus frugilegus*, etc.  
→ Killing of adult birds as well as chicks and eggs of birds which make damage for buildings

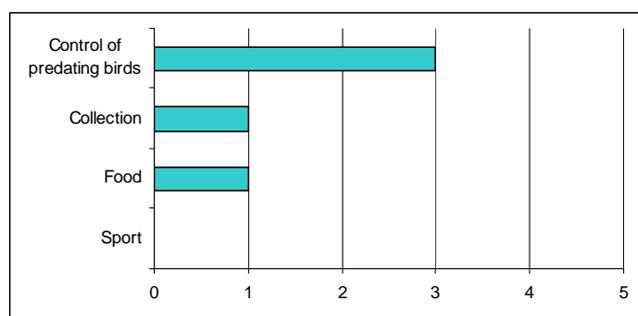
Starlings and trushes, etc.  
→ Killing of "berries-eaters"

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	4	0
Killing outside the legal season	3	0
Killing having no permit	3	0
Illegal firearms or transport	3	0
Illegal trapping	3	0
Poisoning	3	0
Killing of protected birds	3	0
Illegal trade	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	+1
Collection	3	0
Human consumption	4	0

# Macedonia

Macedonian Ecological Society  
May 2011

Various types of illegal activities against birds occur in Macedonia. Poisoning and illegal trapping of passerines or taking raptors for illegal trade are widespread. These activities are increasing and they affect more than 25 species.

## I. Species affected

*Aquila chrysaetos*, *Buteo butreo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco biarmicus*, *Bubo bubo*,  
→ Random killing of protected species

*Falco peregrinus*, *Falco biarmicus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Buteo buteo*  
→ Taking for keeping birds alive

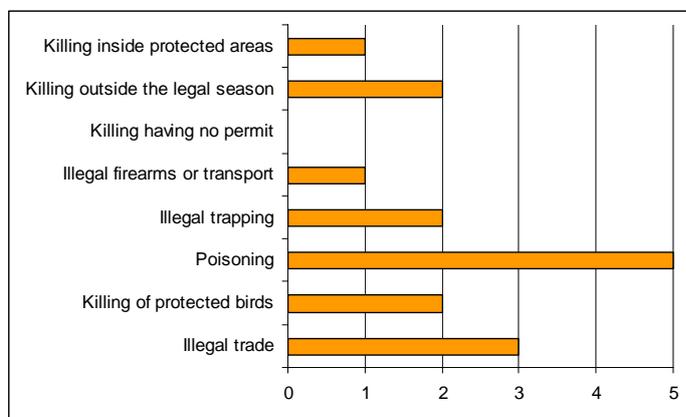
*Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Buteo buteo*  
→ Poisoning

*Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*,  
*Fringilla coelebs*  
→ Illegal trapping

*Buteo buteo*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas Penelope*  
→ Illegal means of transport

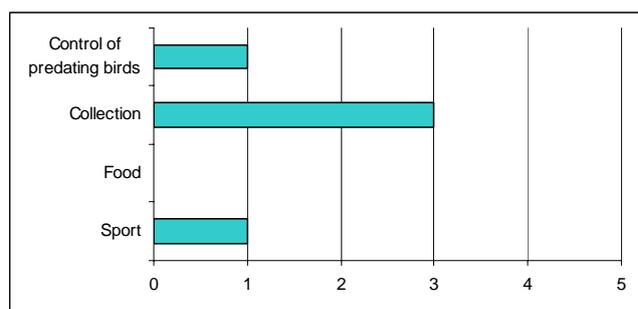
*Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, *coccothraustes coccothraustes*,  
*Falco biarmicus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Buteo buteo*  
→ Illegal trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	3	0
Illegal trapping	3	+1
Poisoning	0	-
Killing of protected birds	3	+1
Illegal trade	3	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	1	0
Collection	3	+1
Leisure	3	0

# Morocco

SEO/BirdLife  
April 2011

A significant number of species and a significant number of birds (120.000 - 430.000) are getting illegally killed or taken in Morocco every year. This includes rare or protected species with unfavourable conservation status. Killing of protected birds, poisoning predators or taking passerines for trade of cage birds all have significant impact on the species and these activities have all increased in the last 10 years.

## I. Species affected

*Aegypius monachus* (10,200), *Neophron percnopterus* (7,000), *Aquila adalberti* (760), *Gyps fulvus* (71,500), *Kites* (*Milvus migrans* and *Milvus*; 78,500)

→ Poisoning

(in brackets n° birds/10 years estimated by WWF):

*Parany*, *thrushes* but also many other species.

→ Trapping using glue

*Alectoris rufa*, *Streptopelia turtur*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Columba palumbus*

→ Killing of protected species during breeding season (with administrative authorisation)

*Streptopelia turtur*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Alectors rufa*, *Corvus corone*

→ Killing species with bad conservation status:

*Carduelis carduelis* (50,000-200,000 birds/year), *Carduelis cannabina* (20,000-100,000 birds/year), *Carduelis chloris* (4,000-90,000 birds/year), *Serinus serinus* (1,000-20,000 birds/year), *Fringilla coelebs* (20-6,000 birds/year), *Serinus canaria* (10-1,000 birds/year)

→ Killing for keeping birds alive

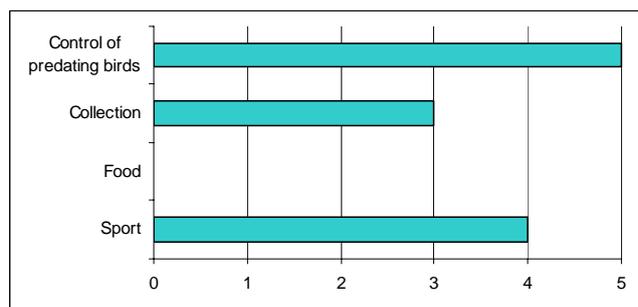
## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing outside the legal season	5	0
Poisoning	0	-
Killing of protected birds	5	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	5	+1
Collection	5	+1
Leisure	3	0

# Montenegro

National Institute for Nature Protection  
March 2011

In Montenegro illegal activities against birds have a relative big importance and are targeting mainly waterbirds, passerines and raptors. The range of illegal activities goes from killing inside protected areas, with illegal firearms or outside the illegal season to the illegal trade nationally and internationally. In Montenegro, custom service does not seem concerned about this issue and killed birds are going across border without control. All those activities have been increasing in the last 10 years.

## I. Species affected

### Ducks and water birds

- Killing for human consumption
- Killing for vandalism
- Use of illegal means of transport and firearms
- Illegal trade

### Passerines

- Killing for vandalism
- Killing for human consumption

### Raptors

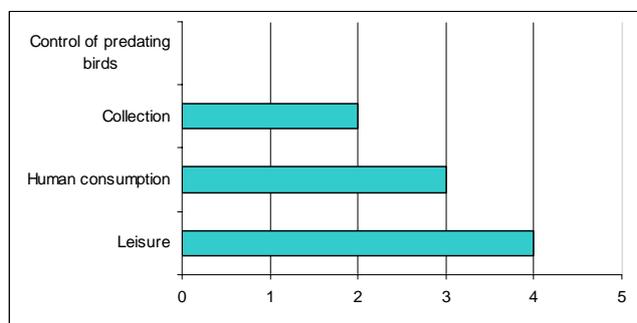
- Killing for vandalism

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	+2
Killing outside the legal season	3	+1
Killing having no permit	3	0
Illegal firearms or transport	3	+2
Illegal trapping	3	+1
Killing of protected birds	3	+1
Illegal trade	3	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	0	-
Human consumption	3	+1
Leisure	1	+1

# Netherlands

Vogelbescherming Nederland - BirdLife Netherlands  
May 2010

In the Netherlands, killing or destroying nests of raptors for the 'control' of predators is rare but has affected more than 11 species of bird of prey in the last 5 years. Taking chicks of hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) in the nest for illegal trade is also rare but has a very important impact on their population in the country.

## I. Species affected

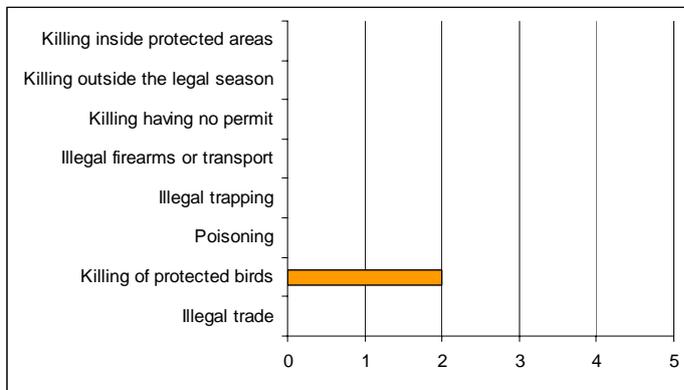
*Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Athene noctua*, *Tyto alba*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Pernis apivorus*.

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Circus cyaneus*.

→ Illegal trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Killing of protected birds

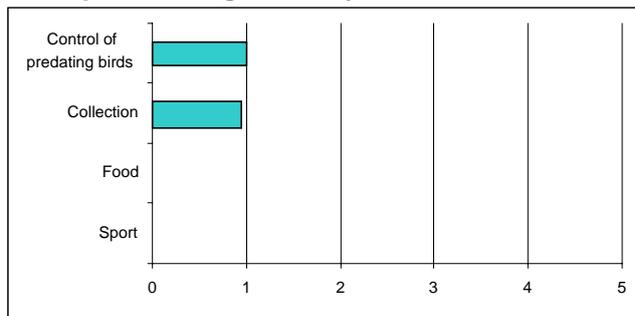
Quality of evidence

4

Trend (10 y)

-

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Control of predating birds

Quality of evidence

4

Trend (10 y)

-

Collection

4

-

# Norway

Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF)

May 2011

Illegal activities against birds are present in Norway but they occur locally and many of them have decreased in the last 10 years (with an exception for killing with illegal firearms or means of transport which importance has increased).

## I. Species affected

*Buteo lagopus, Aquila chrysaetos, Asio flammeus, Surnia ulula, Falco rusticolus*

→ Killing for "Leisure"/recreation

*Accipiter gentilis, Adrea cinerea, Phalacrocorax carbo, Haliaeetus albicilla, Aquila chrysaetos, Laridae and corvidae species.*

→ Killing for control of predators

*Falco rusticolus, Bubo scandiacus, all raptor and owl species*

→ Taxidermy

*Raptor, Corvidae species and other bird scavengers*

→ Poisoning

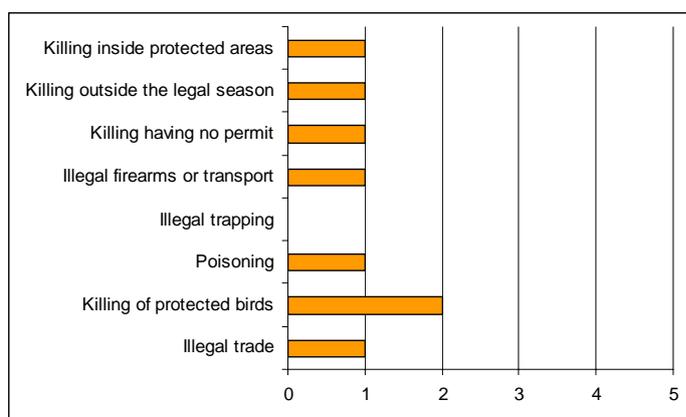
*Tetrao urogallus, Tetrao tetrix, Marine and freshwater bird species*

→ Illegal means of transport

*Anser anser, Anser brachyrhynchus, some other duck and goose species*

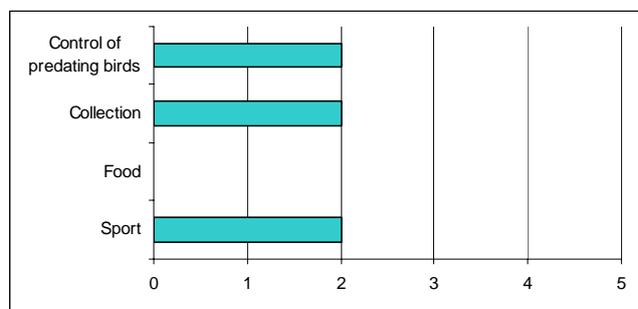
→ Out of the legal season

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	-1
Killing outside the legal season	1	-1
Killing having no permit	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	1	+1
Poisoning	0	-
Killing of protected birds	3	-1
Illegal trade	1	-1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	1	0
Collection	1	-1
Leisure	3	-1

# Poland

The Polish Society of the Protection of Birds  
January 2010

In Poland, the main illegal activities are trapping and shooting hawks (sparrowhawk and goshawk, occasionally buzzard) and in limited number trapping songbirds for cage birds. An increasing problem is shooting of cormorants. The use of poisoned baits against foxes but effecting in poisoning of white tailed eagles is also to be mentioned.

## I. Species affected

*Phalacrocorax carbo, Accipiter gentilis, Accipiter nisus, Buteo buteo.*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

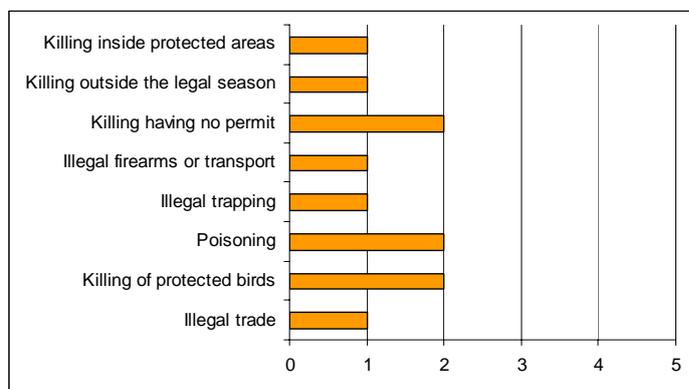
*Fringillidae spp., Accipiter gentilis, Accipiter nisus.*

→ Illegal trapping

*Protected species of waterfowl*

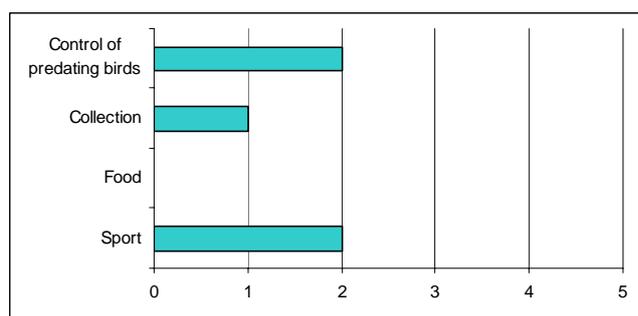
→ Accidental illegal shooting

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	-1
Killing outside the legal season	2	-1
Killing having no permit	2	-1
Illegal firearms or transport	2	-2
Illegal trapping	2	-1
Poisoning	4	-1
Killing of protected birds	2	-1
Illegal trade	2	-1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	-1
Collection	2	-1
Leisure	2	-1

# Portugal

SPEA  
May 2010

In Portugal, the more important illegal activities are poisoning of raptors, trapping for human consumption and illegal trade of cage birds. These activities have been increasing in the last 10 years.

## I. Species affected

*Milvus milvus, Milvus migrans, Aquila heliaca, Aquila chrysaetos, Gyps fulvus, Neophron percnopterus and Aegypius monachus.*

→ Poisoning

*Small migratory insectivorous passerines such as warblers and thrushes families.*

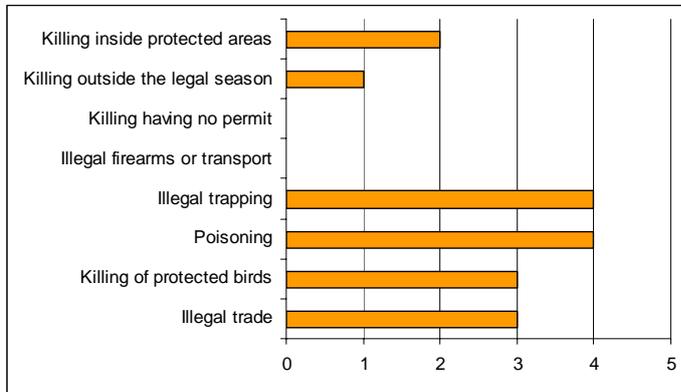
→ Illegal trapping

→ Human consumption

*Fringillidae species.*

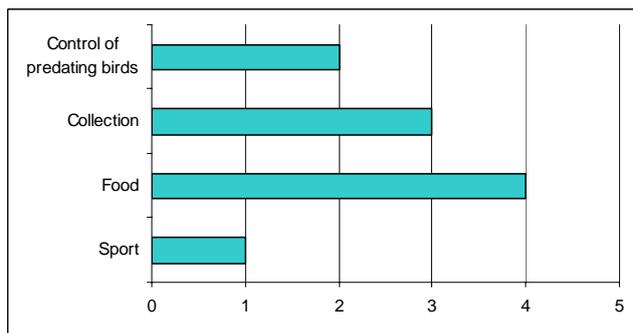
→ Illegal trapping for cage birds

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	+1
Killing outside the legal season	1	+1
Illegal trapping	3	+1
Poisoning	3	+1
Killing of protected birds	1	+1
Illegal trade	1	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	0
Collection	1	+1
Food	1	+1
Sport	3	-

# Romania

Romanian Ornithological Society  
May 2010

They are many different illegal activities conducted against birds in Romania. Killing for the 'control' of predators and killing for Leisure or vandalism are the two main purposes of these activities. The third biggest illegal activity is the illegal trade of birds, especially for falconry and cage birds.

## I. Species affected

*Pelecanus crispus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Accipiter gentilis, Circus aeruginosus, Falco peregrinus.*  
→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Buteo buteo, Pelecanus crispus, Branta ruficollis, Aythya nyroca, Phalacrocorax pygmaeus and Platalea leucorodia*  
→ Killing for Leisure/vandalism

*Galerida cristata, Melanocorypha calandra, Calandrela brachydactyla*  
→ Human consumption

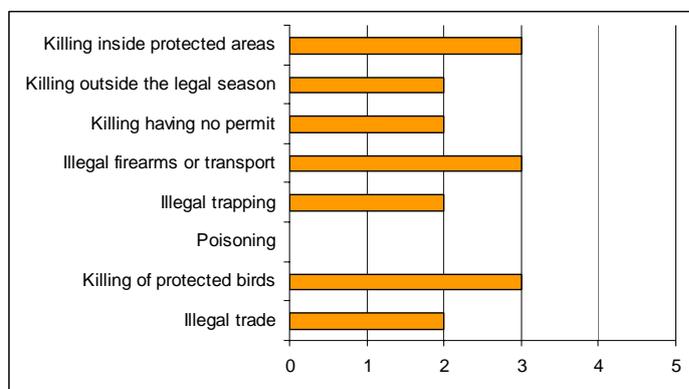
*Anser anser, Anser albifrons, Anas spp.*  
→ Illegal firearms

*Accipiter gentilis, Falco tinunculus, Falco subbuteo, Buteo buteo*  
→ Illegal trade for falconry

*Carduelis cadruelis, Coccothraustes coccothraustes, Parus major, Parus caeruleus, Emberiza sps, Pyrhulla pyrhulla*  
→ Illegal trapping for trade of cage birds

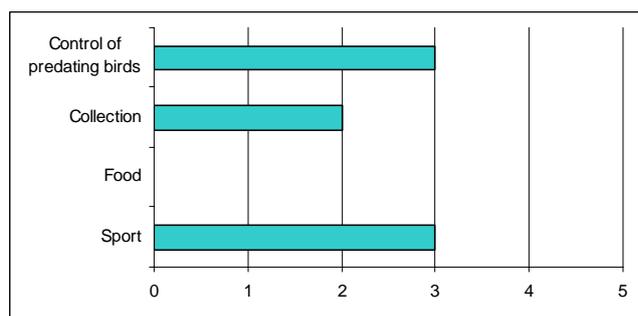
*Alauda arvensis, Anthus campestris, Miliaria calandra, Melanocorypha calandra*  
→ International trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	3	-1
Killing having no permit	2	-1
Illegal firearms or transport	4	0
Illegal trapping	3	0
Killing of protected birds	4	0
Illegal trade	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	4	0
Collection	4	0
Leisure	4	0

# Serbia

League for the Ornithological Action of Serbia  
April 2011

Illegal killing and trade of birds in Serbia is a big and an increasing issue as confirmed by recent cases (see case study). Killing of protected birds for 'Leisure' is an activity that has decreased. But the Rulebook on Hunting Seasons (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 75/10 - 2010) allows shooting of Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Every year thousands of Common Buzzards *Buteo buteo* (also other birds of prey) are being shot under the mask of "Goshawk hunting". Another problem is poisoning targeting stray dogs, but affecting vultures. Also leaving chemically treated seeds of wheat and corn on the surface (it should be covered by soil), so consequently large number of birds are killed (occasionally roe deer and hare too).

## I. Species affected

*Anas platyrhynchos*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Perdix perdix* and *Tringa tetanus*

→ Illegal killing for illegal international trade

*Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo buteo*

→ Shooting of protected species for 'Leisure'

*Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, *Carduelis spinus*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Acanthis cannabina*, *Serinus serinus*.

→ Taking for keeping birds alive

→ Illegal trapping with illegal mist nets and illegal trade of cage birds

*Coturnix coturnix*, *Streptopelia turtur* but also ducks and geese.

→ Illegal firearms

*Fringillidae* species, *Coraciidae*, *Meropidae*, African exotic pet birds, *Ardeotis kori* and *Sagittarius serpentarius*.

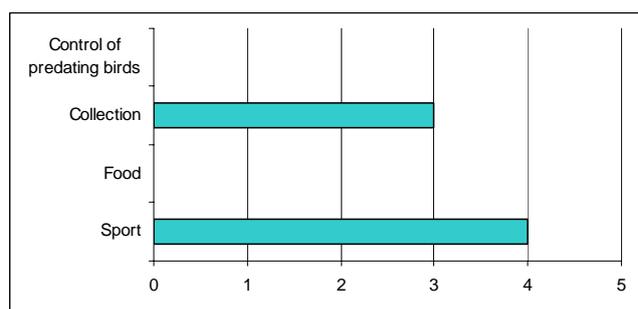
→ Illegal trade

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	1	0
Killing outside the legal season	-	-
Killing having no permit	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	3	+1
Illegal trapping	1	0
Poisoning	-	-
Killing of protected birds	3	-1
Illegal trade	5	+1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	3	0
Leisure	5	-1



# Slovakia

SOS/BirdLife  
May 2010

The most important issue for Slovakia is the illegal killing of raptors for control of predators and the taking of raptors for falconry. From a conservation point of view, poisoning is the illegal methods having the biggest impact on raptors. Goshawks are targeted using specific traps. Shooting to Corvids nests is still quite widespread and leads to shooting to some falcons and owls using the nests. Illegal trade of raptors for falconry is having a high impact on their populations at a national level (incidents of nests getting robbed have been recorded for golden eagle, saker falcon and peregrine falcon).

## I. Species affected

*Aquila heliaca, Falco peregrinus and Falco cherrug.*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

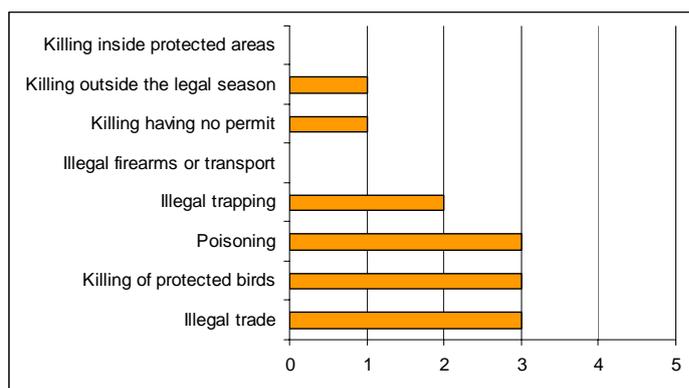
*Buteo buteo and Accipiter gentilis*

→ Illegal trapping

*Aquila chrysaetos, Falco peregrinus and Falco cherrug.*

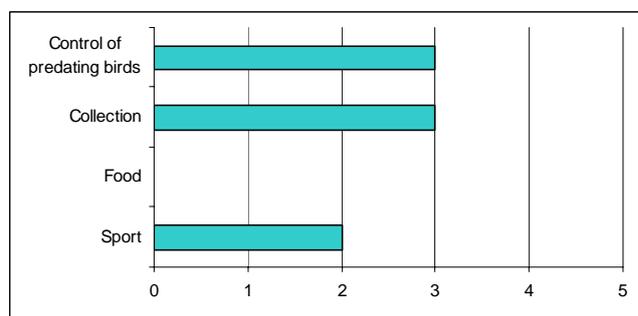
→ Illegal trade for falconry

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing outside the legal season	1	-1
Killing having no permit	1	-
Illegal trapping	-	0
Poisoning	4	0
Killing of protected birds	4	0
Illegal trade	4	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	4	0
Collection	4	0
Leisure	3	-1

# Slovenia

DOPPS  
May 2010

In Slovenia, the biggest problem is taking birds for cages and collections for the Italian market. It seems this has a negative impact on populations of Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) and Rufous tailed rock thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*). Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* is sometimes illegally hunted for some specialised restaurants in south-western part of Slovenia, towards Italian border.

## I. Species affected

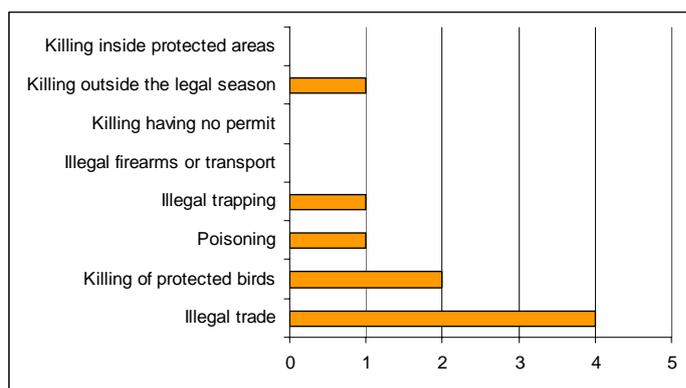
*Emberiza hortelana*, *Monticola saxatilis*, *Scolopax rusticola* and *Fringillidae*  
→ Illegal trade

*Falco peregrinus* and *Accipiter gentiles*  
→ Trapping for 'control' of predators

*Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ardea cinerea*  
→ Killing for 'control' of predators

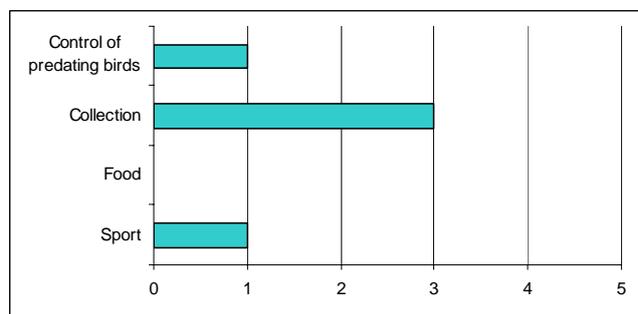
*Corvus cornix*, *Corvus corax*, *Buteo buteo*  
→ Poisoning

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing outside the legal season	2	+1
Illegal trapping	3	0
Poisoning	1	0
Killing of protected birds	3	0
Illegal trade	2	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	-1
Collection	3	0
Leisure	1	0

# Spain

Sociedad Española de Ornitología  
May 2010

The most important illegal activity regarding birds in Spain is the shooting and poisoning of raptors (14 species affected). These birds are taken either by farmers/hunters for control of predators or for leisure. Poisoning is the illegal method of killing raptors that has the biggest conservation impact. Taking raptors for falconry is also an important issue, as well as trapping passerines (mainly Sylviidae and Turdidae) for trade of cage birds.

## I. Species affected

*Aquila chrysaetos, Aquila heliaca, Milvus milvus, Milvus migrans, Gyps fulvus, Gypaetus barbatus, Buteo buteo, Neophron percnopterus, Coragyps atratus, Aquila fasciata and Aquila pennata.*

→ Poisoning

*All raptors, but also Tetrax tetrax, Otis tarda and Tetrao urogallus.*

→ Shooting

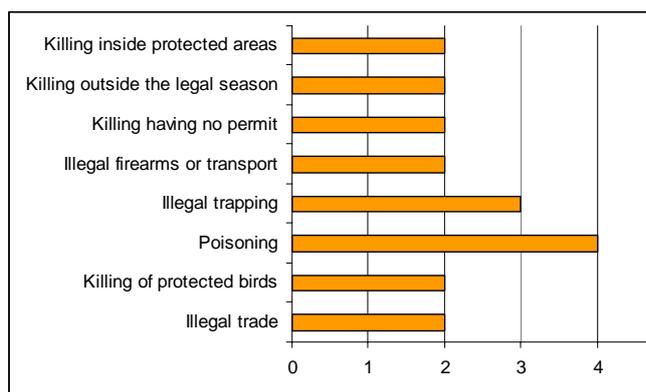
*Sylvia atricapilla, Sylvia melanocephala, Erithacus rubecula, Phoenicurus phoenicurus, Turdus philomelos, Turdus iliacus, Turdus viscivorus, Motacilla alba, Motacilla cinerea and Motacilla flava.*

→ Illegal trapping

*Accipiter nisus, Falco naumanni, Falco tinnunculus, Falco peregrinus, Falco eleonora, Accipiter gentilis, Aquila fasciata, Milvus milvus, Milvus migrans, Elanus axillaris, Aquila pennata, and most of the Fringillidae species.*

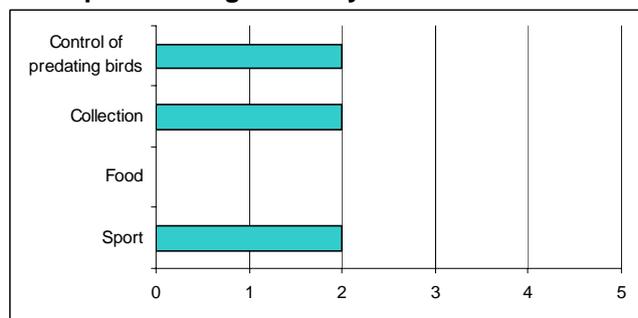
→ Illegal trade (falconry and cage birds)

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	-1
Killing outside the legal season	2	-1
Killing having no permit	3	-2
Illegal firearms or transport	3	-1
Illegal trapping	4	0
Poisoning	3	+1
Killing of protected birds	2	-1
Illegal trade	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	-1
Collection	2	-1
Leisure	2	-2

# Sweden

The Swedish Ornithological Society  
May 2010

In Sweden, illegal activities are targeting 3 predator species: golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is getting shot (especially in areas with reindeer breeding), cormorant eggs (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) are getting destroyed and goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) are targeted using illegal trapping.

## I. Species affected

*Aquila chrysaetos*

→ Shooting

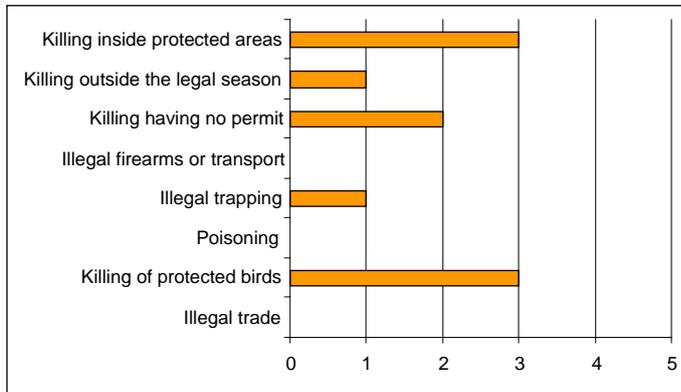
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

→ Eggs picked or destroyed

*Accipiter gentilis*

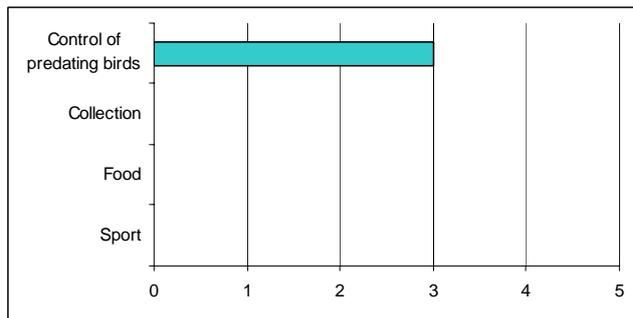
→ Illegal trapping

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	5	0
Killing outside the legal season	3	0
Killing having no permit	5	0
Illegal trapping	5	-1
Killing of protected birds	5	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	5	0

# Switzerland

SVS/BirdLife Switzerland  
June 2011

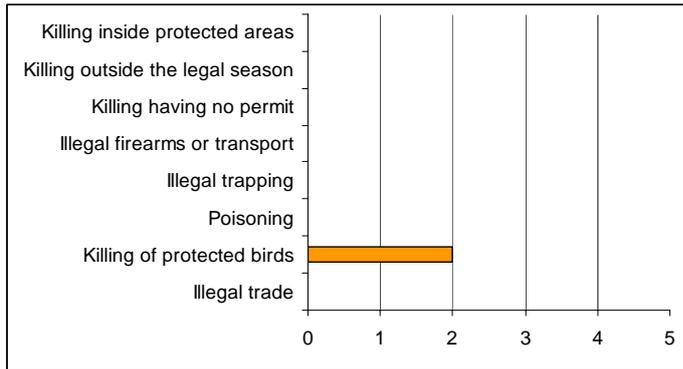
In Switzerland, illegal killing of birds is not a major problem. Bearded vulture is the only species under an unfavourable conservation status in Europe that is victim of illegal activities in this country.

## I. Species affected

*Gypaetus barbatus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Ardea cinerea*.

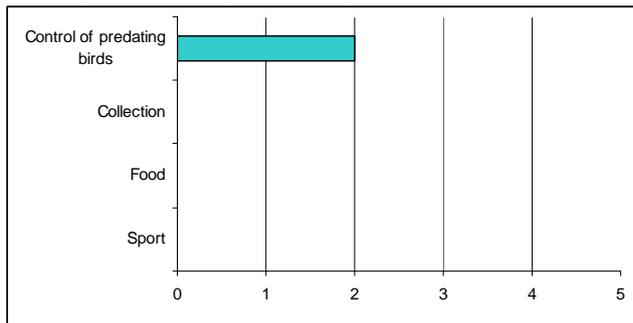
→ Killing for control of predators

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing of protected birds	2	-1

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	2	-1

# Turkey

Doga Dernegi  
April 2011

Many protected species are affected by illegal activities in Turkey. Illegal shooting of birds of prey, waterfowl and many other birds is a widespread activity that has important conservation impact on some of the species. One of the most important issue is the important killing of bee-eaters since the special promotion of honey production. Poisoning and illegal trade occur and are probably underestimated but there is no monitoring and good evidences of the activities. The use of illegal firearms has also been increasing a lot in the last 10 years.

## I. Species affected

*Otis tarda*, *Tetrax tetrax*, *Tetrao mlkosiewiczzi*, *Tetraogallus caspius*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Crex crex*, *Anser erythropus*, *Pterocles alchata* and *Aythya nyroca*.

+Birds of prey: *Aquila pomarina*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Buteo buteo*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Neophron percnopterus* and *Bubo bubo*.

→ Killing/Shooting of protected species for 'Leisure'/'vandalism'

*Bubo (Ketupa) zeylonensis* and *Merops spp.*

→ Killing for 'control' of predators

*Branta ruficollis*, *Otis tarda*, *Tetrao mlkosiewiczzi*, *Crex crex*, *Coturnix spp.*, *Ammoperdix griseogularis*, *Alectoris chukar*, waterfowl and birds of prey.

→ Illegal firearms

*Coturnix spp.* and *Crex crex*.

→ Trapping along migration routes

→ Human consumption

*Falco cherrug* and *Falco biarmicus*

→ Killing inside protected areas

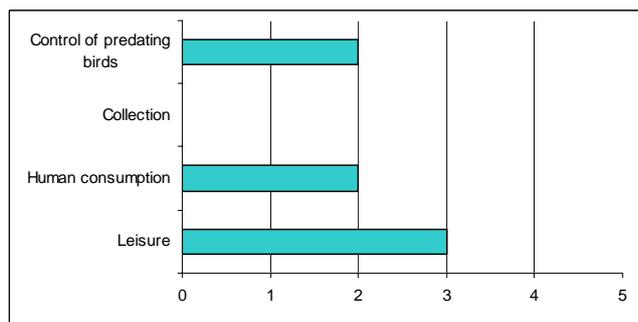
## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	3	0
Killing outside the legal season	3	0
Illegal firearms or transport	3	+2
Illegal trapping	3	0
Killing of protected birds	3	0

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	3	+1
Human consumption	3	0
Leisure	5	0

# Ukraine

USPB  
June 2011

In Ukraine illegal activities against birds have a big importance and are targeting many endangered species. The range of illegal activities goes from killing birds for taxidermy or taking them for keeping them in cages, many huntable species are killed out of the legal seasons and/or with illegal firearms, to the illegal trade nationally and internationally. All those activities have dramatically increased in the last 10 years.

## I. Species affected

*Branta ruficollis, Tadorna ferruginea, Bucephala clangula, Pandion haliaetus, Aquila heliaca, Haliaeetus albicilla, Buteo rufinus, Tetrao tetrix, Tetrao urogallus, Grus grus, Grus virgo.*

→ Taxidermy

*Otis tarda, Tetrax tetrax, Grus virgo, Falco peregrinus, Falco cherrug.*

→ Keeping birds alive

*Branta ruficollis, Tadorna ferruginea, Otis tarda.*

→ Killing for leisure

→ Illegal firearms of means of transport

*Anas platyrhynchos, Marmaronetta angustirostris, Anas querquedula, Tadorna ferruginea, Aythya ferina, Gallinago media, Philomachus pugnax, Columba palumbus, Fulica atra, Gallinula chloropus, Rallus aquaticus, Phasianus colchicus, Coturnix coturnix.*

→ Killing out of the legal season

→ Illegal firearms of means of transport

*Pelecanus onocrotalus, Somateria mollissima, Grus grus, Grus virgo, Otis tarda, Asio otus, Falco peregrinus, Falco cherrug*

→ Illegal trade

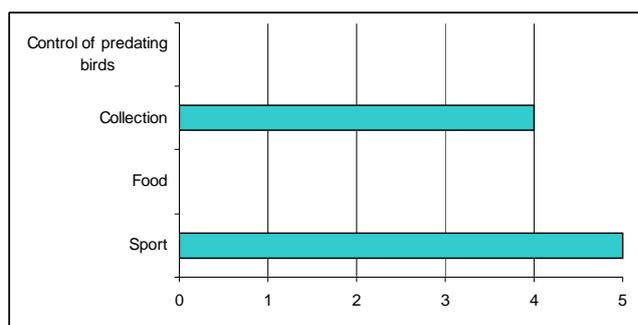
## II. Type of illegal activities



### Type of illegal activities

Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	2	+2
Killing outside the legal season	2	+2
Killing having no permit	2	+1
Illegal firearms or transport	2	+2
Killing of protected birds	2	+2
Illegal trade	2	+2

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



### Purpose of illegal activity

Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Collection	1	+2
Leisure	2	+2

# United Kingdom

RSPB  
Feb 2010

The most important issue for the United Kingdom is the illegal shooting, poisoning and trapping of raptors. Illegal trapping associated with shooting estates, primarily land managed for driven grouse shooting, is the primary factor limiting population status of hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) is the most commonly persecuted bird of prey, but it appears not to be having a conservation level effect. The second most important illegal activity is taking birds alive for falconry and trade of cage birds.

## I. Species affected

*Circus cyaneus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Milvus milvus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo buteo*.

- Poisoning
- Illegal trapping
- Illegal Shooting

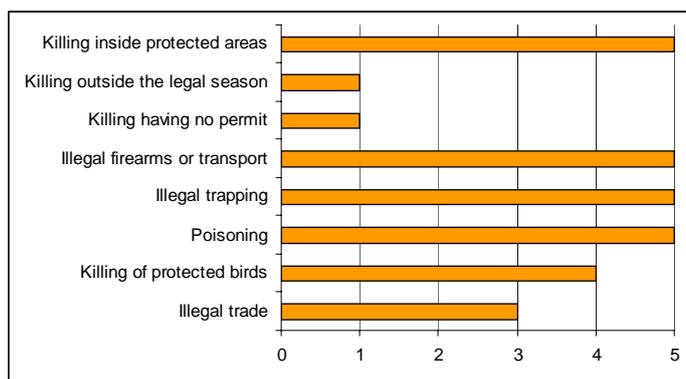
*Falco peregrinus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Fringillidae*.

- National trade

*Podiceps auritus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Pandion haliaetus*

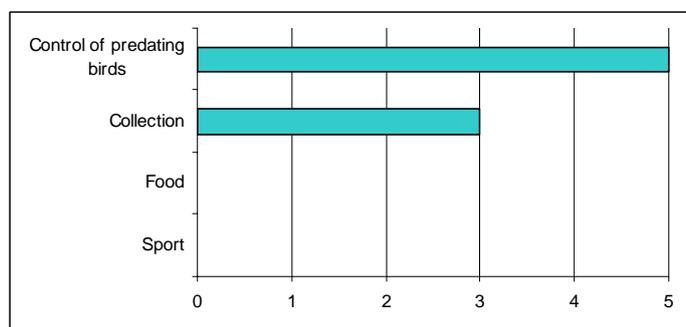
- Egg collection

## II. Type of illegal activities



Type of illegal activities	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Killing inside protected areas	5	0
Killing outside the legal season	1	0
Killing having no permit	1	0
Illegal firearms or transport	5	0
Illegal trapping	5	0
Poisoning	5	0
Killing of protected birds	-	-
Illegal trade	-	-

## III. Purpose of illegal activity



Purpose of illegal activity	Quality of evidence	Trend (10 y)
Control of predating birds	5	0
Collection	4	0