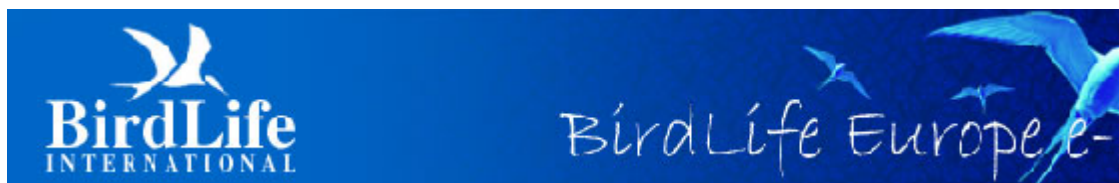


Herlinde Herpoel

From: Herlinde Herpoel [hherpoel@hotmail.com]
Sent: vendredi 29 avril 2011 10:31
To: Herlinde Herpoel
Subject: FW: BirdLife Europe e-news April 2011
Attachments: adresbalk_r.jpg

To: hherpoel@hotmail.com
Subject: BirdLife Europe e-news April 2011
Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2011 03:16:14 -0500
From: birdlife-international@birdlife-eneews.org



<http://europe.birdlife.org>

<http://www.birdlife.org/eu/newsletters.html>

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Editorial: BirdLife Europe - an ever growing Partnership for people and nature

As many of you have noticed, Brussels has been wonderful this month, with long days full of sunshine and warmth, ideal for a nice Easter holiday. With spring migration in full swing, we are happy to announce a few new arrivals on the BirdLife Europe side as well. First of all, the Annual Report for 2010 is now available online, and offers our readers a snapshot of BirdLife Europe's achievements, successes and future plans. Secondly, a new 'Welcome Pack' for BirdLife Partners in Europe and Central Asia is on its way with videos and background info to tie our Partnership even

closer together ! April has also been a month for reconnecting and creative brainstorming for the European and Central Asian Partnership, as more than 100 Directors and senior management staff from Partners gathered together in Budapest to reflect upon and shape BirdLife's programme for the coming years. Apart from the strategic planning, it was a highly motivating and enthusiastic group of BirdLife leaders who came up with many creative solutions for new ways of communication, fundraising, membership recruitment and other exciting plans which will help to reach out even more to our growing group of supporters. With all these new ideas in the pipeline, it will be an intense second half of 2011 !

All the best,

Herlinde Herpoel

Head of European Communication and Marketing
BirdLife Europe

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2008 revisited: Consultation on Biomass Sustainability Criteria



In 2008, the European Commission organized a consultation on the use of biomass under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), and the necessity for mandatory sustainability criteria. In 2011, they seem to be repeating the exercise. The reason for this repetition is that, last time around, the Commission opted only for voluntary standards, with a promise to revise the policy by the end of 2011.

For BirdLife Europe, there is no change in the answers. The only change is that our concerns back then are quickly becoming reality. The RED has created a huge additional demand for biomass and there are big questions around its sustainability. Voluntary standards are not effective enough and other policy initiatives are not in place yet (e.g. a possible legally binding agreement on forests at pan-European level) or not directed towards the problem (e.g. reform of Common Agricultural Policy). There is now a clear and present danger of Europe becoming a sort of black hole, draining the world's forest resources and thus exacerbating a range of problems from biodiversity loss to land conflicts, and even, perversely, making climate change worse.

BirdLife Europe and other NGOs were deeply disappointed with the Commission consultation, which avoids the hard questions and restricts the possibility for complete answers. Aiming to broaden the discussion and make it more relevant, we have submitted a longer and more complete contribution. If biomass is to contribute to, rather than hinder the EU climate policy, the Commission must start tackling the sustainability issue seriously.

More information [Trees Robijns](#), EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe.

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What is the relevance of Dess' report on CAP communication?

Last February, Mr. Albert Dess - a German MEP from Bavaria - presented the first draft of his own initiative's report entitled: "The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future" in the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

This draft report comments on the Commission's CAP reform communication of 17 November. Its main suggestion is a proposal to have the green component based in the 2nd pillar, but linked to the 1st pillar. The component would include a menu of measures (including organic landscape elements, biodiversity preservation, innovation and promoting investment in new green technologies) out of which the Member States can pick two that they must offer to farmers.

It seems that Mr. Dess was trying to come up with new ideas, but in doing so he has been drifting away from the previous Lyon report, adopted by the EP last year, and muddying the waters around the Commission's proposal. The draft report has run into steep opposition in Parliament. This became clear while drafting the amendments. No less than 1267 amendments have been issued.

BirdLife Europe has criticised the draft report as it would, in practice, mean that little if any environmental improvement would be delivered through the bulk of CAP subsidies, and the limited "greening" effort would be based on a menu approach that cannot guarantee any effective and widespread response to the environmental crisis.

The committee have long nights of negotiations ahead before this report will be ready, according to a tight timeline aiming at a final vote in one of the June plenary sessions. If Mr. Dess can manage to negotiate a consensus document, substantially improving his report and giving it a clear political message, the EP might stand a chance of having an impact. Otherwise, this report is likely to be quickly forgotten and the Commission will be looking mainly at Member States for political guidance in drafting the actual legislative proposal. Given the Parliament's newly acquired powers on agriculture, this would be a huge lost opportunity and a disappointment to those hoping to see the Parliament finally putting the interests of EU citizens in the front seat.

More information: [Trees Robijns](#), EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe.

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Disappointment over European Court of Justice Decision involving SOR (BirdLife in Romania)

On 14 April, the European Court of Justice ruled against the European Commission in a case brought against the Romanian Government on grounds of inadequate designation of protected areas for birds.

The Ornithological Society of Romania (SOR), BirdLife's Romanian Partner organisation, provided a large amount of information to support this case. When Romania acceded to the European Union in 2007, it was obliged under EU law to designate a network of Special Protection Areas for birds.

However, 30% by area of the country's Important Bird Areas (IBA's -identified by SOR/BirdLife) were excluded from the network and 21 sites have no protection at all. This means that a large percentage of the populations of iconic species such as Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* and Corncrake *Crex crex* are not protected.

The case failed on procedural grounds. Ciprian Fantana of SOR stated "We are, of course, extremely disappointed by this judgment. However, the case against the Romanian government to fulfill its duties to protect our sites of European Importance remains. Therefore, we will press the European Commission to bring a new legal action."

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OTOP (BirdLife in Poland) launches national Spring Alive campaign



OTOP (BirdLife in Poland), the international coordinator of BirdLife's Spring Alive campaign, has just launched its national campaign through its ambassador Odeta Moro-Figureska, a well-known Polish TV personality.

Over 4000 migrant bird observations are already registered on the international Spring Alive website, with Poland holding third position among national observation counts. Last year over 100,000 observations were gathered, of which 7500 came from Poland.

At OTOp's launch, journalists and Ms. Moro-Figureska joined in a bird-watching walk together with children from local kindergartens and primary schools.

Ms. Moro-Figurska, also mother to 8-year-old daughter Sonia, says of her Spring Alive experience so far: "Children eagerly participate in Spring Alive as it combines fun and education. They love watching birds, and it creates a need to learn much more about them and become bird experts! It is extremely important to encourage young people to be aware and care about nature. I hope my role of Spring Alive Ambassador will help me reach and persuade more people to look around to find spring messengers."

The Spring Alive project is a simple birdwatching survey, where participants register their first bird sightings online during each Spring, creating a 'map' of the Spring arrivals of 5 bird species across Europe. Participation is very simple and great fun for both children and adults.

Spring Alive receives its funds from the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa. For more information or to register your own sightings, check out the [Spring Alive website](#).

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BirdLife Partnership appeals to save the Sumava forest in the Czech Republic



In April, 37 Directors of the BirdLife European and Central Asian Partnership signed an appeal to the Czech Prime Minister, Petr Nečas, to halt the

imminent destruction of the Sumava, one of the last pristine forest areas left in Europe.

The Sumava forest has been affected by an outbreak of Bark Beetle, a periodic natural phenomenon, leading to mass tree die-out. Forestry authorities in the Czech Republic have seized this opportunity to try and push through commercial cutting of this strictly protected forest which has been until now under integral nature protection. Despite the area being protected as part of the EU-wide Natura 2000 network and being national park as well as Unesco World Heritage Site, it is now facing irreversible ecological damage which would be carried out without any nature impact assessment or concern for the many threatened species inhabiting the forest.

The logging operations would remove both deadwood which is crucial for the survival of species such as woodpeckers and wood borrowing insects and living trees, which would otherwise ensure the natural regeneration of the forest. The logging would also cause disturbance to highly sensitive threatened species e.g. the Western Capercaillie Tetrao urogallus for which Sumava provides the last refuge in the Czech Republic.

The wild Sumava forest, one of the natural treasures of Europe is part of a transboundary complex of protected areas stretching into Germany. It represents virtually the last significant expanse of high-quality forests left in Central Europe.

BirdLife Europe's appeal is a last attempt to save a magnificent place and the host of endangered species from virtual annihilation. A case of environmental vandalism disguised as good forest management. The destruction of the Sumava forest would represent not only an attack on European common heritage but also a clear violation of EU legislation and of the international commitments signed by the Czech Republic.

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How many birds do we need?



At a recent meeting of BirdLife Europe's Birds and Habitats Directives Task Force (BHDTF) hosted by SEO/BirdLife (BirdLife in Spain) in Madrid, experts from 18 national BirdLife Partners discussed experience, methods and plans to formulate "conservation objectives for birds" - at site, national and European level.

Of course there is wide agreement that extinctions of birds, and of other taxa, have to be prevented, and that we need to turn around negative trends. It is clear too, that restoring bird populations and

their habitats is essential for achieving functioning ecosystems and long-term human well-being.

However, determining minimum values for population size is much more difficult. In other words: How many birds do we need, so that we can say their populations are viable and fit for an uncertain future, and can play a meaningful ecological role as a fundamental component of the ecosystems? Where do we need these values most urgently: at site, national or EU level? What methodologies exist, where do we have to improve data quality? These and other questions were discussed, sharing practical experience from around Europe.

As part of a government financed project LIPU/BirdLife Italy is developing "Favourable Reference Values" for birds at national level, so far this has been completed for 51 species. For many more minimum values for breeding density have been determined. DOF (BirdLife in Denmark) and

SEO/BirdLife Spain presented experience from setting quantitative objectives for bird populations in specific Natura 2000 sites.

Participants agreed to develop a coordinated approach of the whole BirdLife Partnership, with the ultimate aim of setting quantitative conservation objectives for all wild birds at national and EU level. BirdLife Europe is best placed to undertake this huge task - which is important not only to inform conservation strategies, but also to assess governments' progress in meeting their obligation under EU law to bring all bird species to an adequate level.

For more information please contact [Konstantin Kreiser](#), International Biodiversity Policy Officer (NABU) or [Claudio Celada](#), Director of Conservation at LIPU (BirdLife in Italy).

For a link to the article, please click [here](#).

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BirdLife Europe Annual Report 2010 now available online



BirdLife Europe's Annual Report for 2010 is now available online. The report highlights BirdLife Europe's successes and achievements of the past year and gives the reader a glance into future and upcoming plans and challenges ahead.

The BirdLife Europe Annual Report can be downloaded from our website by clicking [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Herlinde Herpoel](#), Head of European Communication and Marketing at BirdLife Europe

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New Welcome Pack winging its way to the BirdLife European and Central Asian Partnership

Through a series of new videos and accompanying material for the BirdLife European and Central Asian Partnership, BirdLife Europe will introduce our staff and leaders, explain our role in the ever-

growing global network which is BirdLife and encourage our Partners to get in touch with us. By giving you a taste of our Brussels office, we aim to even better connect with the Partnership and explain simply what we are all about. For all your questions and curiosities, the BirdLife Europe Welcome Pack is the place to start.

For more information, please contact [Herlinde Herpoel](#), Head of European Communication and Marketing at BirdLife Europe.

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Events

International events

- **January - June 2011: Hungarian Presidency of the European Union**

- **European conference on illegal killing of birds - 6-8 July, Larnaka, Cyprus**

ERRATUM: In the first EU article of our March newsletter article we mentioned erroneously 'One million for biodiversity' in the title. This should be 'One billion for biodiversity'.

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