



## BirdLife Europe e-news



**Editorial-** This new newsletter combines two previous paper newsletters into one electronic. The first issue gives as before an update on important issues BirdLife is dealing with at EU level. [Read more](#)

### News from the EU

**BirdLife New Publication-** The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, met with a BirdLife delegation on 12 February 2007 to launch BirdLife's new publication "**Well-being Through Wildlife in the EU**". [Read more](#)

**New EU Treaty-** At the European Summit in June the German Presidency managed to broker a deal for a new Reform Treaty, which tries to preserve most of the substance of the former Draft Constitution. [Read more](#)



**LIFE+-** On 28 March 2007 a final deal was agreed between Member States and the European Parliament on the environmental funding instrument for the EU. [Read more](#)

**Seabird bycatch-** The increasing pressure BirdLife has been exerting on the European Commission to ensure EU vessels mitigate bycatch of albatrosses and other seabirds is beginning to pay off. [Read more](#)

### News from the European Partnership

**Estonian Black Storks-** In an old natural forest in central Estonia, Tony and Donna, a pair of Black Storks raise their chicks live on the



### Calendar & Events

**3rd October 2007, 3pm,  
Hotel Bedford, Brussels:**

***New Challenges, New CAP!***

BirdLife and RSPB invite you to the launch of their vision for the future of the CAP

**July-December 2007:**

Portuguese Presidency of the European Union

### Office News

There have been some changes in the European Division Staff in the last months: **Herlinde Herpoel** joined our team as Media & Communications Officer, while **Rob Pople** is the new Research Assistant. After getting married, **Tatiana Sutiakova**, EU Institutions Officer, changed her family name in Nemcova.

You can now contact the staff of the European Division using the new e-mail addresses: [Firstname.Surname@birdlife.org](mailto:Firstname.Surname@birdlife.org)



SPEA, the Portuguese BirdLife Partner, has just launched its new logo:



webcam, which is installed next to their nest by the project team of Eaglelife. [Read more](#)

**Spring Alive**- The Spring Alive campaign, organised by twenty-nine BirdLife partners all over Europe was a success in its first year after the 2006 pilot year. [Read more](#)

**Raptor Camp in Malta**- For over ten years, BirdLife Malta has been organising a raptor camp during the annual autumn raptor migration period. [Read more](#)

**Coin devoted to the Bird of the Year**- APB-BirdLife Belarus runs the Bird of the Year Public Campaign since 2000. In 2002 Belpost office launched a set of stamps devoted to the Bird of the Year. [Read more](#)

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## From the Conservation Point of View

**Eleonora's Falcon in Greece**- More than 80% of the world's Eleonora's Falcons breed on Greek Mediterranean islands. A curious evolutionary adaptation by the elegant falcons is the fact that they start their breeding cycle late in the summer. [Read more](#)

## What's More

**Workshop with CEMEX**- On June 6 and 7, local and national representatives from CEMEX France, the national arm of the global cement and building products company, held a two day workshop with LPO/ BirdLife France. [Read more](#)



**Eurobirdwatch**- In the weekend of October 6 and 7 2007 the annual EuroBirdwatch event will take place, comprising hundreds of nationally-organized activities in at least 27 countries. [Read more](#)



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## BirdLife Europe e-news

***Welcome to BirdLife's European new electronic newsletter!***

This new newsletter combines two previous paper newsletters into one electronic. The first issue gives as before an update on important issues BirdLife is dealing with at EU level, presents stories from different BirdLife partners and gives advance notice of upcoming events.

We learn about recent developments from the Commission towards producing an Action Plan to reduce seabird bycatch and about the adoption, finally, of the new Funding Instrument for the Environment, the LIFE+ Regulation. We read about the success that a webcam has had in attracting big audiences who watched a pair of Black Storks raise their young in Estonia, and about a successful LIFE-Nature project to conserve the Eleonora's Falcon in Greece and other Mediterranean countries. Finally, we read about LPO's /BirdLife in France, successful relationship with CEMEX in France protecting nature reserves, exchanging best practice and rehabilitation on quarries and about the results of Spring Alive 2007.

Enjoy reading!

Clairie Papazoglou, Head, European Division

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## BirdLife Europe e-news

### News from the EU

#### ***Barroso welcomes BirdLife publication "Well-being Through Wildlife in the EU"***

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, met with a BirdLife delegation on 12 February 2007 to launch BirdLife's new publication "Well-being Through Wildlife in the EU". In its preface to this publication, President Barroso underlines that "the conservation of wildlife is critical for the prosperity and quality of life of EU citizens". The publication collates a wide variety of case studies from across the EU, compiled by BirdLife Partners, which show the various socio-economic benefits of nature conservation – from flood-protection to health, from recreation to education. For more information see the BirdLife news-story at [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/02/barroso\\_meeting\\_EU.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/02/barroso_meeting_EU.html)

The publication can be downloaded at <http://wellbeing.birdlife.org>

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*José Manuel Barroso and Claire Papazoglou – European Communities 2007*

### News from the European Partnership





## BirdLife Europe e-news

### News from the EU

#### ***A new EU Treaty – fresh momentum for birds and the environment in Europe?***

At the European Summit in June the German Presidency managed to broker a deal for a new Reform Treaty. After a long period of reflection the European Union has made a new attempt to reform the basic rules for its functioning, its objectives, values and institutions, which tries to preserve most of the substance of the former draft Constitution, this having been rejected in referendums in France and the Netherlands. An Intergovernmental Conference will now work to finalise the wording of this new Treaty by the end of 2007, so that it can enter into force, provided it gets ratified by all Member States by 2009.

BirdLife believes that the European integration has brought (among many other examples) significant progress for birds and the environment in Europe, most prominently through its world-class, binding nature legislation, the Birds and Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 network. Also to address climate change a strong and reformed EU is necessary. We feel the EU needs to do much more to capitalise on citizens' support for its environmental policy, and to place the (very much interlinked) challenges of climate change and biodiversity decline at the top of the priorities.

In a future issue we will present in detail the changes that the Reform Treaty in relation to the current Treaties.

For more information contact  
[Konstantin.Kreiser@birdlife.org](mailto:Konstantin.Kreiser@birdlife.org)

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#### ***EU Member States and Parliament clear the way for LIFE+***

On 28 March 2007 a final deal was agreed between Member States and the European Parliament on the environmental funding instrument for the EU. LIFE+ is the successor of LIFE, well-known and used by many BirdLife Partners. 40% of the total budget of around 2 billion Euros for the period of 2007-2013 will be ring-fenced for nature and biodiversity projects in the 27 EU Member States. There are indicative amounts of the LIFE+ budget allocated to individual Member States, and governments will have some influence in the project selection. However, the final selection and management of the projects will remain with the European Commission.

With the first call for proposals being expected for autumn 2007, the European Commission is currently preparing further details and guidance for applicants. At the same time BirdLife is informing the Partnership with updated information whenever possible.

For further information please see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/futureoflife.htm> and contact Sacha Cleminson ([Sacha.Cleminson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Sacha.Cleminson@rspb.org.uk)).

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#### ***European Commission moves on seabird bycatch***

The increasing pressure BirdLife has been exerting on the European Commission to ensure EU vessels mitigate bycatch of albatrosses and other seabirds is beginning to pay off. The Commission has now embarked on the process of developing a Community Action Plan for seabirds, with a view to completing it for EU waters in 2009.

BirdLife has produced and submitted a new report to the European Commission making the case for a strategic EU plan of action, by presenting the data about the extent of the problem in EU waters and possible solutions. The campaign for urgent EU action on seabird bycatch has been backed up by a volunteer letter-writing campaign to MEPs in the UK which resulted in extra pressure on the Commission from the European Parliament. Building on the new BirdLife report, the Commission has now started gathering the necessary information for producing the Community Action Plan for EU waters.

BirdLife has been campaigning for the plan to cover all European vessels fishing anywhere in the world, i.e. beyond EU waters. The European Community deploys a large longline fleet which operates worldwide has the responsibility and tools to tackle this problem globally. Moreover, the four tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to which the European Community belongs and where it has significant influence have requested fishing nations to implement National Plans of Action to reduce seabird bycatch in their longline fisheries. The Commission has yet to commit to a global plan but, as a first step, we welcome the initiative they are taking for EU waters.

In 2000, the European Community initially committed to the development of a Community seabird plan and submitted a draft proposal to the 2001 meeting of the Fisheries Committee (COFI) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). But despite repeated pledges to take it further, the Commission has made negligible progress until now. When implemented, the Community Action Plan should help reduce the needless loss of threatened shearwaters (such as Cory's and Balearic) and other

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### ***Estonian Black Storks raise family live on webcam***

In an old natural forest in central Estonia, Tony and Donna, a pair of Black Storks, raise their chicks live on the webcam, which is installed next to their nest by the project team of Eaglelife (Estonian Ornithological Society and the Eagle Club). Nature lovers can hear how the pair quarrels and takes care of their young, four newly nestlings hatched at the end of May, with one young Stork being thrown over the nest just a few days after. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> the project team ringed the nestlings, an important moment both for the Storks and their devoted webcam-audience which can still be viewed through the Tony and Donna's Family Chronicle section available on the website.

The Black Stork is a rare breeding bird inhabiting large natural forests. They are known for being very sensitive to disturbance by human activity. Currently there are near 100 breeding pairs in Estonia. Live video stream from the nest in the forest can be accessed through Estonia's weather portal at [www.weather.ee/woodcam](http://www.weather.ee/woodcam) where you will also find the Family Chronicle section.

For more info contact Urmas Sellis at [urmas@kotkas.ee](mailto:urmas@kotkas.ee)

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### ***Successful Spring Alive season 2007 showed early arrival of migratory birds***

The Spring Alive campaign, organised by twenty-nine BirdLife partners all over Europe was a success in its first year after the 2006 pilot year. During Spring 2007, children from all over Europe entered their data upon seeing their first Cuckoo, Stork, Swift and Swallow. BirdLife partners were responsible for promoting the campaign resulting in 16,000 entries being registered on the Spring Alive website.

Poland, Italy and Ireland received the most entries. The main promotion tools Partners used to promote Spring Alive proved to be involvement of schools and local groups, which got children to count birds and contact with the media. This is what BirdLife Partners in Bulgaria, Slovenia, Slovakia and many others did. Birdwatch Ireland used a very successful hotline to promote Spring Alive. Niall Hatch says they called it the 'Spring Alive Telephone Hotline', 'encouraging members of the public to call us with their sightings if they couldn't or didn't want to enter data online. This was a big success and generated well over 1500 records. It also allowed us to encourage callers to join as members, purchase items from our shop etc, which was a real bonus'.



The results of the Spring Alive campaign 2007 showed some surprising changes this year.

Although the data is not scientifically based, the results showed that some typically migratory birds arrived earlier in 2007 than the year before, some even earlier than the European phenological norm. The first bird of the campaign to arrive in Europe is the Stork, followed by the Swallow, the Cuckoo and finally the Swift.

Joanna Kalinowska, coordinator of the Spring Alive campaign, believes that the weather may have been

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responsible for the early arrival of some birds: "Early sightings of migratory birds were not possible twenty years ago. Nowadays scientists claim that our climate is warming up and the changes this provokes could affect the arrival of migratory birds in Europe. Spring 2007 has been very mild compared to last year. This is reflected in the Spring Alive results."

Next year's Spring Alive Campaign will be launched beginning of 2008. All European partners are invited to join this pan-European initiative. Various types of promotional material and best practice sheets are available to set up the campaign in each country.

For more information, please contact Joanna Kalinowska, Coordinator of the Spring Alive campaign at [Joanna.kalinowska@otop.org.pl](mailto:Joanna.kalinowska@otop.org.pl), or visit the website [www.springalive.net](http://www.springalive.net).

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### *Join BirdLife Malta's 2007 Raptor Camp!*

For over ten years, BirdLife Malta has been organising a raptor camp during the annual autumn raptor migration period, open to both local and international volunteers. The purpose of this two-week camp, taking place from 8-23 September 2007 is to curtail illegal hunting activity and collect data on bird migration, in particular of raptors. BirdLife Malta is looking for volunteers with basic raptor identification skills as well as anyone who has the enthusiasm and motivation to fight against illegal hunting of protected species. A crash course in raptor ID will be provided! For more information, you can visit the new website of BirdLife Malta at [http://www.birdlifemalta.org/conservation/other\\_projects/raptor\\_camp/](http://www.birdlifemalta.org/conservation/other_projects/raptor_camp/) or write an e-mail to Andre Raine at [raptorcamp@birdlifemalta.org](mailto:raptorcamp@birdlifemalta.org)

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'By volunteering for this year's Raptor Camp, you can help to protect these magnificent birds from illegal hunters and turn Malta into a safe haven for migrating birds of prey'.

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### *The coin devoted to the Bird of the year*

APB-BirdLife Belarus runs the Bird of Year Public campaign since 2000. In 2002 Belpost office launched a set of stamps devoted to the Bird of Year. The first set had depicted birds of 2000-2002: White Stork, White Wagtail, Golden Oriole. New stamps now appear annually. All stamps of the set have logos of APB and BirdLife International depicted.



Bird for the next year is selected by APB Board in September. With 315 bird species in the fauna of Belarus it is actually difficult to select one, the best for the moment. Campaigns with some birds were less successful than with others. APB secretariat proposes a species which fits next few criteria: distributed both in cities/countryside, known by people, easy recognizable, known by people, easy to spot, one with conservation problems. Only Bird of the year 2005 Great Grey Owl did not fit all this criteria (national population is c. 100 pairs). But this bird was selected on purpose in the row with common ones. Till now Belpost office issued stamps with 69 bird species depicted. So every candidate for the bird of the year should not be depicted on stamps before.

In frame of a campaign together with children's drawings and tales' competition APB as well often runs particular bird census and always conservation actions. Some 1500 participants usually are involved in the Campaign. But media and people like them very much. People like common birds. And conservationists have not to up set people with an extreme rarity and to deliver conservation message during the campaign.

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the  
National Bank of the Republic



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of Belarus launched a new set of commemorative coins which is devoted to the Bird of the Year. The first one has depicted a Thrush Nightingale, a bird of year 2007.

For information: Alexandre Vintchevski,  
[A.Vintchevski@tut.by](mailto:A.Vintchevski@tut.by)



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### ***Conservation actions for Eleonora's Falcon in Greece***

More than 80% of the world's Eleonora's Falcons breed on Greek Mediterranean islands. A curious evolutionary adaptation by the elegant falcons is the fact that they start their breeding cycle late in the summer in order to maximise the use of migrating passerines passing by their breeding colonies in autumn, to feed their offspring. Eleonora's falcons are threatened by habitat degradation, poisoning by agrochemicals, human disturbance and predation by introduced rats.

For the last four years, the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS, BirdLife Partner in Greece), together with several other partners including the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB/BirdLife UK), has been implementing an EU LIFE-Nature project for the conservation of the Eleonora's Falcon in Greece and other Mediterranean countries. The project assessed the species' distribution, population size, threats and conservation status. In addition it has helped to implement priority management measures in ten Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The focus of the measures has been to improve the breeding success of the falcons, to support the administrative and operational capacity of regional and local nature conservation authorities and to raise the public awareness and appreciation of the species.



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HOS through this project has implemented for the first time ever a thorough census of the population and complete mapping of its distribution in Greece. In parallel, other Mediterranean countries participating in the project have also conducted censuses of breeding Eleonora's Falcons. In the years 2004-2006 in Greece alone more than 80 fieldworkers were involved in census work covering 965 islands and islets, equivalent to 6114 km of coastline. The preliminary results suggest that the global population size is between 12.800 and 14.000 pairs, with more than 80% breeding in Greece.

Key activities of the project included monitoring of nests, collection of data on breeding performance and samples of blood. Two pilot rat eradication operations on five islets were implemented. All rats were successfully exterminated from the islets and as a result in some colonies the number of nestlings per nest increased by 20%.

HOS has launched a National Wardening Plan and implemented it in three key breeding colonies. International researchers and conservationists can join the project's

*Falco eleonora* Network (FEN) information sharing system. It has been established as a project activity but it will stay operational after the end of the project.

For more info: [jakobfric@ornithologiki.gr](mailto:jakobfric@ornithologiki.gr)

<http://www.ornithologiki.gr/life/falcoel/index.php>



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### *Business and Biodiversity*



FRANCE



#### **A Working Relationship between CEMEX and BirdLife**

On June 6 and 7, local and national representatives from CEMEX France, the national arm of the global cement and building products company, held a two day workshop with LPO/ BirdLife France and other conservation NGOs close to LPO's reserve at Les Sept Iles in Brittany. This annual meeting organised by CEMEX and LPO is a key component of an ongoing partnership between CEMEX and 15 conservation organisations from across France, including LPO.

Last September 2006, CEMEX and LPO signed their fourth Partnership Agreement, which outlines the range and depth of joint activities undertaken in a true spirit of cooperation. The partnership includes a professional relationship in which LPO provides its expertise to support CEMEX France in the development and implementation of its sustainable development policy at a strategic and operational level. It also includes grant support for conservation projects, both on and off CEMEX managed sites. The relationship includes frequent interaction at local, regional and national level through meetings, workshops, exhibitions, open days and publications.



At the two-day meeting, CEMEX and LPO staff presented their activities, including site rehabilitation of quarries, conservation projects and biodiversity studies, as well as shared experiences and best practices. In addition, they learned about CEMEX partnerships with other BirdLife European partners. In Poland, for example, CEMEX is providing co-funding for the largest ever species conservation project in that country. This project, funded by the EU's LIFE programme, will help to save the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler.

The meeting included a visit to LPO's beautiful reserve at Les Sept Iles, where nearly 20,000 gannets and hundreds of puffins can be seen nesting and feeding, as well as Fulmars, Guillemots and seals. Les Sept Iles is one of the locations receiving grant funding from CEMEX France. Others include the wetlands of les Marais Poitevins and Marais Atlantiques. Species projects include the development of favourable nesting conditions for Peregrine Falcons and other raptors in the urban environment.

Following the meeting, LPO and CEMEX France signed their fifth partnership agreement on July 5, 2007.



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For more information about this partnership, visit  
<http://www.cemex.fr/page.asp?id=2339>

<http://www.lpo.fr/>



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### ***EuroBirdwatch 2007 on 6-7 October 2007 – Focus on migratory birds***

In the weekend of October 6 and 7 2007 the annual EuroBirdwatch event will take place, comprising hundreds of nationally-organized activities in at least 27 countries all over Europe. This year's event is organised by the Swiss Association for the Protection of the Birds SVS/BirdLife Switzerland. It is a unique opportunity for all Europeans to get out and observe Europe's wild birds and to learn about the importance of protecting the migratory birds' habitats, breeding areas and flyways.

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