



## BirdLife Europe e-news

**Editorial-** As the 2007 comes to a close, it is the time to reflect on the year gone by and what lies ahead. [Read more](#)

### News from the EU

**How healthy is the CAP?**- November 20th, the European Commission published its communication on the so called CAP Health check, outlining proposals and options for further reform of the EU Common Agriculture Policy. [Read more](#)

### Climate Change – new challenges, new opportunities for BirdLife in Europe-

BirdLife Partners from 24 European countries met on 19-20 November for a seminar in Berlin to shape the climate change strategy for the European Partnership. [Read more](#)



**Greece SPAs in ECJ-** On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 the European Court of Justice condemned Greece for insufficient classification of SPAs in number and area under the EU Birds Directive. [Read more](#)

**The Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty)-** On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007 the European Heads of State and Government adopted the Reform Treaty at the European Council meeting in Lisbon. [Read more](#)

**Slovenia at the steering wheel of the EU-** In January 2008, Slovenia will be the first new EU Member to take over the Presidency of the EU, with climate change, biodiversity and the 'CAP Health check' on its priority list. Greening Europe can be downloaded at <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/newsletters.html>. [Read more](#)



### Calendar & Events

12-14 December, Brussels

**Birds and Habitats Directives Task Force for BirdLife Partners**

20 December, Brussels

**Environment Council**

January-June 2008

**Slovenian Presidency of the European Union**

### Office News

**SPEA/BirdLife Portugal has a new English Electronic newsletter**

SPEA Online is now available in a bi-monthly edition with the most relevant news from Portugal, illustrated with beautiful pictures. Subscribing to it is easy and free: just send an e-mail with your contact details to [speaonline@gmail.com](mailto:speaonline@gmail.com)

A new open group – '**IBA Co-ordinators Group**' – has been set up on the BirdLife extranet ([www.birdlife.net](http://www.birdlife.net)) for national IBA co-ordinators and other staff working with IBAs. Various documents relating to IBA identification and monitoring are available in the 'Documents' section of the group, as well as a link to the new '**IBA Toolbox**' resource (in the 'News' section). If you would like to propose any additional news items, event notifications, documents or discussion topics, please email the group moderator, Rob Pople ([Rob.Pople@birdlife.org](mailto:Rob.Pople@birdlife.org))

**BirdLife European Division**

## News from the European Partnership

### *Hellenic Ornithological Society: 25 Years of Action-*

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), the BirdLife partner in Greece, organised a celebration event on Tuesday, 20 November in Athens. [Read more](#)

### *SEO holds conference on illegal use of poison in*

*Spain-* On October 30-31, the BirdLife Partner in Spain, SEO organised a workshop in the city of Réal, as part of the 'Antidoto' programme on the illegal use of poison in the environment. [Read more](#)

### *BirdLife European Partners meet in Latvia on the*

*27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> November-* More than 60 participants from all over Europe gathered together in November in Jurmala, Latvia for the European Partnership Meeting. [Read more](#)



*Office* will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

*Merry Christmas!*



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## From the Conservation Point of View

### *Sociable Lapwing in Turkey: largest flock for 100*

*years-* In October, a 3,000-strong flock of Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* has been discovered in Turkey. [Read more](#)



*How to know our forests are doing fine?-* At the end of October 2007 BirdLife's European Forest Task Force held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual seminar in Białowieża, Poland. [Read more](#)

### *Strengthening the Saker Falcon population in Hungary and Slovakia-*

The Bükk National Park in Hungary and its sixteen partners – including MME/BirdLife Hungary and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia – have applied successfully for EU LIFE-Nature funds to support the joint Hungarian-Slovak Saker conservation programme. [Read more](#)

*Baltic Sea Action Plan overlooks oil pollution-* Mid-November, members of the governing body 'HELCOM' held a meeting in Krakow to approve the Baltic Sea Action Plan for conservation measures in the Baltic Sea region. [Read more](#)

*Public agreement as a tool for conservation of nature in Ivanovo region, Russia-* In order to protect

the South-Eastern part of the Ivanovo region, which is a well preserved natural area the RBCU, BirdLife in Russia, has organized the signing of an agreement between all local stakeholders for the protection of the site. [Read more](#)

***Butterfly Conservation Europe Inaugural meeting-***  
On 29-31 October Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE) had its inaugural meeting of Partners in Laufen, Germany. [Read more](#)

## What's More

***BIRDLIFE and CEMEX celebrate launch of new book and a collaboration agreement to span 10 years-***  
BirdLife International and Cemex have organised an event in Brussels on the 5<sup>th</sup> December to promote their book called 'Birds & people: Bonds in a Timeless Journey'. [Read more](#)

***A closer look into Armenia and Azerbaijan-*** Thanks to the Second-hand binocular scheme organized and supported by the RSPB, 20 binoculars have been donated to AOS, BirdLife Affiliate in Azerbaijan and 10 to ASPB, BirdLife Partner Designate in Armenia. [Read more](#)



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## BirdLife Europe e-news

As the 2007 comes to a close, it is the time to reflect on the year gone by and what lies ahead. 2007 has seen a new BirdLife e-newsletter, many important policy developments, meetings and BirdLife network changes, but on this occasion I would like to focus on some positive news stories involving birds themselves. In February 2007, a survey co-organised by the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team finally discovered the wintering grounds of this globally threatened species in north-west Senegal. A population of 5,000–10,000 wintering birds was found in Djoudj National Park, which means this site holds most of the world population of this species, whose breeding grounds are concentrated in Poland and Belarus. In October, with the help of modern satellite technology, scientists tracked a single Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* all the way from Kazakhstan to south-east Turkey. When ornithologists went to the area to look for the bird, they discovered to their surprise and delight a flock of 3,000 Sociable Lapwings – the biggest flock ever seen of this elusive and critically endangered species! Moves to conserve the wintering sites of both species are now underway. At the same time, we managed to save (at least for the time being) the unique Rospuda Valley in Eastern Poland from destruction, and we are not far from stopping spring hunting in Malta once and for all. On these happy notes, I trust that 2008 will bring many more happy discoveries and better nature conservation, and wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## BirdLife Europe e-news

### News from the EU

#### *How healthy is the CAP?*

On November 20th, the European Commission published its communication on the so called CAP Health check, outlining proposals and options for further reform of the EU Common Agriculture Policy. A public consultation will lead to a formal proposal that is expected next May. BirdLife has been advocating for the Health check to be used to bring the CAP closer to an effective Sustainable land management and rural development policy that we have outlined in our recent Vision document <http://capvision.birdlife.org>. The Commission's document recognises the environmental challenges facing the farming sector: biodiversity decline, climate change and water management. It broadly fails however to come up with credible solutions. On the positive side there is a proposal for further transfer of funds from the "first pillar" (income subsidies) to the Rural development policy that includes environmental payments. The proposal is however much less ambitious than the one already proposed by the Commission in 2002. BirdLife welcomes the suggestion to expand the basic rules, farmers receiving subsidies, have to comply with (cross compliance) to cover water and climate change issues. On the other hand we are concerned by the fact that the document ignores the many current failings of cross compliance in addressing biodiversity issues. The most worrying development is the proposal to scrap the Set Aside mechanism without introducing any targeted environmental tool to replace it which could further aggravate the situation of farmland birds. BirdLife is now calling upon the Parliament and the Council (chaired by the Slovenian Presidency) to bring up the level of environmental ambition giving a hope of better future for farmland birds, citizens, farmers and the CAP itself. More on the Health check in the Farming for Life newsletter <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/newsletters.html>

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## BirdLife Europe e-news

### News from the EU

#### ***Climate Change – new challenges, new opportunities for BirdLife in Europe***

BirdLife Partners from 24 European countries met on 19-20 November for a seminar in Berlin to shape the climate change strategy for the European Partnership. On invitation by NABU and RSPB (BirdLife Partners in Germany and the UK), and by the European Secretariat, BirdLife representatives from most EU Member States and countries like Iceland, Azerbaijan and Ukraine, shared experience and discussed priorities for those fields of the debate where BirdLife can make a real difference.



Climate change risks to impact ecosystems, including birds and biodiversity, in such a dramatic way, that the overall objective has to be to efficiently reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, this means reducing our own carbon footprint, promotion of sustainably produced renewable energy and more work in the field of carbon sinks and "avoided deforestation".

At the same time, BirdLife is well-placed to contribute to the debate on how to adapt to the climatic changes that are, unfortunately, already unavoidable: The seminar agreed that a key role for BirdLife has to be to investigate, demonstrate and raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on birds and biodiversity, and to propose and promote necessary conservation responses. With climate change the world will need more conservation, not less - including the strengthening of protected area networks like Natura 2000.

Finally, BirdLife's ongoing work for biodiversity friendly land-use is gaining additional importance with climate change: only healthy, diverse and resilient ecosystems can act as "buffers" against expected impacts of climate change, like more frequent and intense extreme weather events, soil erosion, droughts, floods etc. In that context,

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harmful impacts of renewable energy development on biodiversity have to be avoided, e.g. from unsustainably grown agrofuels.

To achieve all these new objectives the seminar recommended the establishment of a European Climate Change Coordination Group open to all European Partners.

More information: [Konstantin.Kreiser@birdlife.org](mailto:Konstantin.Kreiser@birdlife.org)

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### News from the EU

#### *Greece SPAs in ECJ*

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 the European Court of Justice condemned Greece for insufficient classification of SPAs in number and area under the EU Birds Directive. This is the sixth case of this kind, where the Court, on the basis of the BirdLife Important Bird Areas (IBAs), has assessed compliance with the Birds Directive provisions. In this case the Court used the 2000 IBA inventory. The other cases previously have been against The Netherlands (1998), France (2002), Italy (2003), Finland (2003) and Spain (2007). In the Greek case which is the most detailed to date the Court examined the SPA classification for a number of species, ruling that species like the Kruper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*), Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Mediterranean Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) and others are insufficiently covered and inadequately protected by the current network of SPAs in Greece. The Greek government now should move without delay in the classification of new SPAs.

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#### *The Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty)*

On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007 the European Heads of State and Government adopted the Reform Treaty at the European Council meeting in Lisbon. The Reform Treaty will be signed by Heads of State in December in Lisbon, and will from then on be called 'The Lisbon Treaty'. The Reform Treaty will be put to national Parliaments or Referenda across the 27 EU Member States with the aim of being ratified and therefore be in force by 1 January 2009. The Reform Treaty was adopted instead of a Constitution after the rejection of the latter by France and the Netherlands in 2005. The Reform Treaty amends two existing EU treaties, the Treaty on the European Union (Treaty of Maastricht) and the Treaty Establishing the European Community and renames the latter one which now become the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (old name Treaty Establishing the European Community).

None of the amendments to the two Treaties affect negatively the provisions for the environment in the EU and it could be argued that they strengthen them somewhat through the inclusion of a specific reference to climate change and the strengthening of provisions for access to justice and the right to petition.

For more information:

[http://europa.eu/reform\\_treaty/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/reform_treaty/index_en.htm)

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From the Conservation Point of View

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#### ***Slovenia at the steering wheel of the EU***

In January 2008, Slovenia will be the first new EU Member to take over the Presidency of the EU, with climate change, biodiversity and review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) – the 'CAP Health check' (see separate article in this newsletter) on its priority list.

In May 2008, the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be taking place in Europe (Bonn, Germany) and Slovenia, representing the EU, will have a huge responsibility to make this key UN conference a success. The EU should demonstrate leadership towards reaching the 2010 target of halting biodiversity decline through a clear commitment to finalise the Natura 2000 network both on land and at sea. Slovenia, with more than half of its territory covered by forests, most of it managed sympathetically to biodiversity, should also show leadership on sustainable forest management.

Slovenia will also have a key role in taking forward the Renewable energy Directive, an important milestone in the EU climate change mitigation policy. We expect this Directive to strongly support the development of renewable energy while at the same time ensuring adequate safeguards for biodiversity and other natural resources. Ensuring that the development of bioenergy does not lead to massive use of unsustainable biofuels will be a key test. Slovenia will also make a progress in the discussion on the Green Paper on Adaptation. The CAP 'Health check' is an excellent opportunity to translate the Adaptation policy into concrete action in Agriculture, possibly the most crucial sector for climate change adaptation.

Greening Europe for the Slovenian Presidency, BirdLife International's publication highlighting the BirdLife's Priorities for the Presidency can be downloaded at <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/newsletters.html>

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Office News

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News from the EU

News from the European Partnership

### *Hellenic Ornithological Society: 25 Years of Action*

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), the BirdLife partner in Greece, organised a celebration event on Tuesday, 20 November in Athens.

More than 200 people, members, friends, and collaborators got together to celebrate a 25-year constant and solid action for the protection of birds and their habitats in Greece. The celebration took place in the Cultural Centre of the University of Indianapolis, located in the old historical neighborhood of Athens (Plaka), just under the Acropolis. The guests had the opportunity to attend a wide range of activities: an exhibition of the most important conservation and environmental education programmes of HOS since its foundation, a wildlife photo exhibition, the projection of the new video on HOS profile, and a jazz music performance.



The celebration event was honored by the presence of guests who supported HOS and have significantly contributed to the protection of the natural environment in Greece. Dr. Luc Hoffman, one of the first ornithologists who explored and contributed to the protection of the Greek nature, Mr. Tassos Leventis, President of the A.G. Leventis Foundation, Dr. Claire Papazoglou, Head of the European Division of BirdLife International, Dr. Norbert

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Schaffer, Head of the European Programme Department of RSPB, and Mr. Giorgos Chandrinos, HOS founding member addressed their greetings and wished HOS a future full of action and further success.

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News from the European Partnership

### ***SEO holds conference on illegal use of poison in Spain***

On October 30-31, the BirdLife Partner in Spain, SEO organised a workshop in the city of Réal, as part of the 'Antidoto' programme on the illegal use of poison in the environment which affects species like the Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*, the Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus* and the Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* among others. In Spain 50% of the Spanish Imperial Eagle population dies of the use of poison on farmland or in other practices. The 'Antidoto' programme provides a platform for eight NGOs fighting against the illegal use of poison in Spain e.g. on hunting grounds for predator control. More than 170 experts (hunters, NGOs, farmers, local administration) revised the current situation of the use of illegal poison in Spain and debated about how to fight this problem. Several conclusions were reached at the end of this conference, one of them stating that it is urgent for autonomous communities to recognize the problem and set-up plans with the objective to fight against the use of illegal poison. It is imperative that plans are thoroughly executed and followed up by mobile troops in the field. Another measure which was recommended by the experts was to set-up mechanisms which make sure that convicted trespassers cannot find ways to escape the law and have to accept and carry out their verdict fully.

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News from the European Partnership

### ***BirdLife European Partners meet in Latvia on the 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November***

More than 60 participants from all over Europe gathered together in November in Jurmala, Latvia for the European Partnership Meeting. While outside a snowstorm was raging, the Directors of 35 BirdLife Partners focused on discussing and prioritizing the BirdLife European Programme for the period 2009-2012. There were challenging presentations and active workshops, focusing both on the European horizontal issues, such as climate change or EU updates, and specific country accounts from Russia, Malta and Turkey. The European Programme will be finalized during 2008 and adopted in September to form the framework for the BirdLife Partnership 2009-2012. BirdLife International would like to thank LOB, the BirdLife Partner in Latvia, for warmly welcoming every participant, perfectly organizing the meeting and taking care of everybody's needs during their stay.



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News from the European Partnership

From the Conservation Point of View

### *Sociable Lapwing in Turkey: largest flock for 100 years*

In October, a 3,000-strong flock of Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* has been discovered in Turkey. The birds were found in the Ceylanpınar district of south-eastern Turkey after a satellite tag was fitted to one of the birds migrating from breeding grounds in Kazakhstan earlier this year. The finding represents another significant rise in fortune for the Critically Endangered Bird. Almost five years ago, as few as 400 Sociable Lapwing were thought to exist globally. The tagged bird covered 2,000 miles, flying north of the Caspian Sea, then down through the Caucasus and south into Turkey, where it effectively stopped. On investigation conservationists from Doğa Derneği, the BirdLife partner in Turkey, found that the tagged bird was part of a flock of 1,800 other lapwing. The following day a staggering 3,200 Sociable Lapwing were observed at the site.

Conservationists from a number of nations (nearly all BirdLife Partners) have been working to conserve Sociable Lapwing in recent years, by coordinating their actions on the ground; focusing their efforts to conserve wintering sites, stopover sites and breeding sites along the species' flyways.

This coordinated action has included research and protection of breeding sites in Kazakhstan (by ACBK); actions to protect wintering and stopover sites in Turkey and Syria (being undertaken by Doğa Derneği, SPNL and BirdLife's Middle East Division); all assisted by research coordinated by the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK).



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News from the EU

News from the European Partnership

From the Conservation Point of View

### *How to know our forests are doing fine?*

At the end of October 2007 BirdLife's European Forest Task Force held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual seminar in Bialowieza, Poland. This year's seminar was devoted to various aspects of forest ecological indicators and attracted a multinational selection of experts.

Finding a single, universal indicator that is capable of promptly responding to habitat changes, represent a wide spectrum of forest components, has a strong scientific footing, is easy to use and sends a convincing message to the target audience, is a real challenge for complex ecosystems such as forests.

Birds are ubiquitous and regularly monitored by skilled observers. The Common Bird Index (CBI), proved to be an efficient indicator of the farmland environment quality. An analogous index should be developed for forests. However, due to the complexity and fragmentation of the forest habitat in Europe, the new indicator must be tested for ecological robustness.

The pilot phase of the "OldWood" project assessed expanding data on structural characteristics related to forest biodiversity in four Polish forest types. Furthering "OldWood" to new regions and the development of additional monitoring components would be another step towards an integrated system of forest indicators.

[http://www.birdlife.org/action/change/europe/forest\\_task\\_force/FTF\\_annual\\_workshop\\_2007.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/change/europe/forest_task_force/FTF_annual_workshop_2007.html)

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News from the European Partnership

From the Conservation Point of View

### ***Strengthening the Saker Falcon population in Hungary and Slovakia***

The Bükk National Park in Hungary and its [sixteen partners](#) – including MME/BirdLife Hungary and SOS/BirdLife Slovakia – have applied successfully for EU LIFE-Nature funds to support the joint Hungarian-Slovak Saker conservation programme, which was launched in October 2006. The project aims to strengthen the Hungarian-Slovak population of Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* – as globally endangered species, listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive – living in the Carpathian Basin. Hungary and Slovakia hold at least 40% of the total European population and therefore, the conservation of Sakers in the Carpathian Basin is extremely important for the future of the European population.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the Saker population in Hungary and Slovakia through various conservation measures and learn more about the biology of the species. Satellite-tracking is one of the actions aiming to explore the Saker's behaviour. In order to discover wintering sites and migration routes of juvenile Sakers, and to understand better the reasons of mortality during migration, 46 falcons will be tagged with satellite transmitters until 2009.

In 2007, experts of *BirdLife Hungary* tagged 10 juvenile Sakers with satellite transmitters (PTTs) and although it was only some months ago that the first satellite transmitters were deployed the results are already astonishing. Maybe it is not an exaggeration to say that in these few months of applying the state-of-the-art technology, BirdLife Hungary has learnt more about the migration routes and roaming



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habits of this globally endangered species than with ringing them for the last 50 years. Since the start of the programme we have more than 2000 locations of Sakers measured by GPS and by the Argos system.

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From the Conservation Point of View

### ***Baltic Sea Action Plan overlooks oil pollution***

Mid-November, members of the governing body 'HELCOM', which is the 'Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area', held a meeting in Krakow to approve the Baltic Sea Action Plan for conservation measures in the Baltic Sea region.

BirdLife International and its partner BirdLife Finland are concerned about the fact that issues regarding oil pollution have again been overlooked in this plan. So far the countries around the Baltic Sea failed to get illegal oil discharges under control. They are ready and prepared to act immediately when a massive oil tanker accident strikes but unfortunately they do not have a solution for dealing with continuous smaller spills which occur in all parts of the sea.

For decades oil pollution has killed between 100.000 and 500.000 waterbirds in the Baltic Sea. Although the illegal oil spills are usually small, they occur in all parts of the Baltic Sea, unlike single tanker accidents, which are more localised. Waterbirds are extremely sensitive to oil. A small amount of oil on the feathers is enough to kill a waterbird as it loses thermo-isolation and can freeze to death. Additionally birds die through ingesting oil while trying to clean their feathers.

All this said, BirdLife continues to support however the original purpose of the plan to drastically reduce pollution in the Baltic Sea and restore its good ecological status which remains important and necessary to protect one of the world's most threatened marine ecosystems.

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## BirdLife Europe e-news

News from the EU

News from the European Partnership

### ***Public agreement as a tool for conservation of nature in Ivanovo region, Russia***

In order to protect the South-Eastern part of the Ivanovo region, which is a well preserved natural area the RBCU, BirdLife in Russia, has organized the signing of an agreement between all local stakeholders for the protection of the site. The Agreement was signed by several local conservation societies, like the Ivanovo branch of RBCU, the local branch of the Russian Conservation Society, the Animal Protection League, the Ivanovo State University, the Shuysk Pedagogical University, the administration of Yuzhsk district, the Ivanovo State University and Ivanovo regional forest and hunting agencies, peat extractors and others. The Agreement is quite general listing vulnerable sites, threats to the territory and a promise that each signatory will act with minimal damage to nature gem of the region. Main threats for the site are timber harvesting, forest fires in drought years, tourism development and poaching.

This agreement follows several unsuccessful attempts to convince authorities to designate new protected areas in the territory, to be added to the Kliazminski Beaver-Desman reserve (IBA) and the Sezuhovski reserve. The Balakhna lowland, located 350 km North-East from Moscow, is a mosaic of forests and wetlands including wide floodplains of the Lukh, Kliazma and Teza rivers, which already has three confirmed and two potential Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and a potential Ramsar site.

Species that breed at the site include

Osprey  
*Pandion*  
*haliaetus*,  
 Short-toed  
 Eagle  
*Circaetus*  
*gallicus*,  
 Greater  
*Aquila clanga*



and Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Peregrine

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Falcon *Falco Peregrinus*, Willow Grouses *Lagopus l. lagopus*, and Azure Tits *Parus cyanus*. The site is also an important stopover site for White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* and Common Cranes *Grus gru*

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### *Butterfly Conservation Europe Inaugural meeting*

On 29-31 October Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE) had its inaugural meeting of Partners in Laufen, Germany. BCE has set up a network of NGOs, government agencies, governments around 30 European countries, similarly to the BirdLife model, in order to coordinate work on butterflies, prioritise their actions and draw up strategies. BCE through national members is already doing good work on collecting butterfly abundance and distribution data, making the information available on the website and working on EU policies that can influence butterfly conservation. Speakers at the conference included Dr Ladislav Miko, Director in DG Environment of the European Commission, Mr Tamas Marghescu, Director of the Regional Office of IUCN for Europe and Dr Claire Papazoglou, Head European Division, BirdLife International.

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News from the European Partnership

### ***BIRDLIFE and CEMEX celebrate launch of new book and a collaboration agreement to span 10 years***

BirdLife International and Cemex, a global building materials company active in more than 50 countries, have organised an event in Brussels on the 5<sup>th</sup> December to promote the book they jointly made called 'Birds & people: Bonds in a Timeless Journey'. The book, which promotes conservation, is an awareness-raising tool for all sectors of society from industry, to governments and educators, to work together to preserve biological diversity. It presents the ways birds have been of value to humankind through the millennia and reminds its readers of the many ways birds provided them with remarkable environmental benefits such as insect population control, flower pollination and nutrient recycling.

BirdLife International and Cemex also celebrated the signing of a 10 year's long collaboration agreement to strengthen each organisation's ability to achieve sustainable development and in particular to provide better protection for biodiversity at local, national and international levels.

*The book 'Birds & People' is available through the NHBS Environment bookstore:*

*Tel. +44 (0)1803865913, Fax +44 (0) 1803 865 280 or*

*Order online at: <http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=155158>*

*ISBN number: 968-9128-04-3 Price: 29.99 pounds*

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News from the European Partnership

From the Conservation Point of View

What's More

### *A closer look into Armenia and Azerbaijan*

Thanks to the Second-hand binocular scheme organized and supported by the RSPB, 20 binoculars have been donated to AOS, BirdLife Affiliate in Azerbaijan and 10 to ASPB, BirdLife Partner Designate in Armenia.

This scheme started in 1985 and since then the scheme has provided more than 12,000 pieces of optical equipment to conservation and education projects in more than 90 countries, contributing to the development of several monitoring and local activities.



For more information, please visit

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/green/donateoptics/help.asp>

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- Climate Change – new challenges, new opportunities for BirdLife in Europe-: *BirdLife International*
- Slovenia at the steering wheel of the EU: *Shag by P. Vrh Vrezec*
- Hellenic Ornithological Society: 25 Years of Action: *BirdLife International*
- BirdLife European Partners meet in Latvia on the 27th- 28th November: *BirdLife International/Roseate tern by C. Gomersall*
- Sociable Lapwing in Turkey: largest flock for 100 years: *M. Abdallah*
- Strengthening the Saker Falcon population in Hungary and Slovakia: *MME/BirdLife Hungary*
- BIRDLIFE and CEMEX celebrate launch of new book and a collaboration agreement to span 10 years: *BirdLife International*
- A closer look into Armenia and Azerbaijan: *BirdLife International*
- Office news: *Blue tit by S. Benko*