

From: BirdLife International [birdlife-international@birdlife-eneews.org]

Sent: 22 September 2009 16:17

To: alessia.pautasso@birdlife-eneews.org

Subject: BirdLife Europe e-news September 2009



<http://europe.birdlife.org>

S

Editorial: Seeds of hope

News from the EU



- **The road to Copenhagen: s way to go**
- **BirdLife's expectations for of Europe's Fisheries Polic**
- **Biofuels: Finally accountin emissions?**

News from the BirdLife European Partnership



- **Spring Alive: every year a success!!**
- **Migratory birds celebrated "Honey Buzzard Day"**
- **How cheese can help bird c**

From the Conservation point of view

- **BirdLife in Sweden 'champ Philippine Eagle**
- **World Première: The first Marine IBA Inventory now**
- **Caucasus Partners togethe conservation**



BirdLife on the move



- **Meet the BirdLife European Partnership: Angelo Caserta, Regional Director at BirdLife European Division**

What's more



- **First successful BirdLife Fundraising Workshop**
- **Alistair Gammell – 40 years protecting Europe's nature**

Events



- **European Events**
- **BirdLife Events**

Editorial: Seeds of hope

I spent my very short holidays this summer on the western coast of southern Portugal, the Algarve, in a beautiful protected area, now unfortunately under threat. Public authorities, both at national and regional levels, are aiming to loosen the law and allow further development of tourist complexes, increasing pressure over an important biodiversity area.

Sitting in front of the ocean, my mind flying around and my heart full of 'saudade', I tried to imagine a different world.

A world where unsustainable fisheries, threatening birds and the whole marine ecosystem – as you read in the following articles – is finally banned.

A world where we finally adopt drastic measures to reduce the impact of climate change on nature and people. A world where energy production is not in competition with food production and crops are used to feed people and not cars.

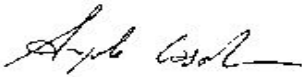
A world where people engage enthusiastically in nature conservation and protection, as the nearly 100.000 kids did during Spring Alive in 2009.

It is not impossible and you will discover seeds of this new world in these pages and in the publications and websites of the BirdLife Partners.

Every month we aim to present you with experiences and news that can make a difference for our future, with a special focus on the amazing variety of activities of the BirdLife Partnership.

Like seeds of hope, giving birth to trees, feeding birds and human beings and restoring the beauty of biodiversity around us.

With my very best wishes



Angelo Caserta
Regional Director
BirdLife International European Division

[-> Top](#)

The road to Copenhagen: still a long way to go



In mid August, the 192 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Bonn, Germany, for informal consultations as part of the "road to Copenhagen". Key amongst the objectives of this meeting was to streamline the unwieldy negotiation text – also known as "the brick" – which came out of the preceding session in Bonn in June, and thus prepare the ground for further negotiations in Bangkok in late September. Many critical issues, such as the legal form of a potential Copenhagen agreement, sharing of responsibility for emissions reductions, and financing, remain to be resolved, and Bonn saw no significant political breakthroughs on these questions.

However, some progress was made in some of BirdLife's priority areas, namely Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries plus conservation ("REDD-plus"), an initiative that could be extremely significant for the world's tropical forests; issues concerning human activities that affect carbon storage and sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems ("LULUCF"); and adaptation, which relates to the measures that are needed for people and nature to cope with unavoidable climate change. With only fifteen formal negotiating days left before the UNFCCC 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in December, it is becoming increasingly clear that things have to speed up if any agreement offering substantial hope for the world's birds and people is to be reached. BirdLife therefore calls on the EU to assume the leadership role that is so urgently needed.

For more information please contact Linus Blomqvist at linus.blomqvist@gmail.com

[-> Top](#)

BirdLife's expectations for the reform of Europe's Fisheries Policy



With the publication of a "Green Paper" on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the European Commission launched an eight months consultation period with stakeholders which will last until December 2009. BirdLife will contribute to this with its recently adopted position on the reform of the CFP.

Europe's seas support 62 bird species, about 12% of all European birds. Almost half (45%) of those species have an unfavourable conservation status, with some of them, such as Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma Madeira*, and Eider *Polysticta stelleri* on the IUCN Red list. Commercial fisheries and their associated incidental catch of seabirds are to a large extent responsible for this worrying situation which is meant to be regulated by the Common Fisheries Policy.

However, birds just happen to be the most visible indicators of the deteriorating status of our seas brought about by environmentally insensitive fisheries and other unsustainable human activity. Much less visible but of equal concern are collapsing fish stocks, destabilised marine ecosystems and vulnerable habitats destroyed, maybe forever. Fisheries need to adapt to the marine environment, not the other way round.

It's high time for a radical change in the way EU fisheries are managed and BirdLife will join forces with other organisations and EU institutions to work towards a policy which:

- makes environmental sustainability and healthy marine ecosystems its main objectives and has an ecosystem based approach at its heart;
- contributes positively to the achievement of good environmental status of European seas by 2020, as required by the Marine Strategy Directive;
- significantly reduces the fleet capacities and ensures their structure is compatible with sustainable fishing (e.g. environmentally- friendly gear, low CO2 emissions);
- commits decision makers to adhere to scientific advices so that fishing stays within environmental limits.

Read the BirdLife position at http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/BirdLife_position_reform_CFP.pdf

For more information please contact Tatiana Nemcova, Senior EU Advocacy Officer at Tatiana.nemcova@birdlife.org

[-> Top](#)

Biofuels: Finally accounting for ignored emissions?

The lack of provisions to take into account the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from indirect land use change (ILUC) has created a significant loophole in the recently adopted biofuels legislation, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive.

Biofuels supported through EU targets are required to deliver a minimum level of GHG savings, but at the moment only direct emissions such as those from the use of fertiliser and machinery in the cultivation phase are included in the calculations. The problem is that when large tracts of agricultural land are taken for biofuels production, unchanged food demand leads to the substitution of the lost production with production from other land, often newly cleared forests, grasslands and peatlands. A substantial body of scientific evidence suggests that such indirect emissions can often completely negate the claimed benefits of many biofuels. Closing the loophole is the objective of a new proposal expected from the European Commission in the coming months. BirdLife has contributed to a recent consultation exercise, arguing that the only short term way to address the problem is by factoring indirect land use change emissions into the life cycle analysis of biofuels.

ILUC poses of course important problems for biodiversity and human populations which would not be automatically solved by an honest accounting of GHG. The introduction of such a mechanism would however favour those feedstocks that produce little or no displacement (such as the use of waste) and would at least prevent a policy meant to address climate change, perversely ending up exacerbating it.

See BirdLife consultation at http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/ILUC_response_08_09.pdf

For more information contact Ariel Brunner, Senior EU Agriculture Policy Officer at ariel.brunner@birdlife.org

[-> Top](#)

Spring Alive: every year a greater success!!



On 22 June 2009 the fourth season of the BirdLife Spring Alive Campaign successfully ended. This year 31 BirdLife European Partners participated, registering nearly 94,000 observations, many more than the 56,000 collected last year.

Spring Alive is a European-wide campaign to promote children's interest in nature conservation through the celebration of the arrival of spring, and its core component is a mass-participation website, designed especially for children between 8 and 12 years old. Participants of the Spring Alive Campaign are encouraged to observe and record the arrival of four migratory bird species: White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Common Swift *Apus apus* and Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

The Spring Alive Campaign is not only about evoking interest in birds and nature. "Our campaign is a great tool

for informing people, and children in particular, about the threats of climate change and its influence on birds migrations”, explained Magdalena Chrzanowska, European Coordinator of the Spring Alive Campaign.

This year, during its migration, a White Stork broke its beak, probably by flying through a wall in Hungary. Thanks to the experts of the Hortobagy Birds' Hospital, a new synthetic resin beak has been built and fixed on the bird. Without the operation the Stork would have needed hand-feeding for the rest of its life and would have been unable to live on its own again. If the bird makes a full recovery, it will be released back into the wild.

Spring Alive and Born to Travel - the BirdLife Flyways Campaign which aims to protect migratory birds on their journeys - recently joined forces to reach an even wider audience, as both campaigns try to increase awareness on the protection of migratory birds.

Next year will be a very special and challenging year for Spring Alive, as besides being the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010 will also see the BirdLife African Partners joining the Campaign for the first time!

For more detailed information on the last season of the Spring Alive campaign visit the Spring Alive website or contact Magdalena Chrzanowska at magdalena.chrzanowska@otop.org.pl

[-> Top](#)

Migratory birds celebrated during the “Honey Buzzard Day”



Every year on the last Sunday in August, Falsterbo, a migration bottleneck in south-western Sweden, becomes the stage for a bird festival attracting ever increasing numbers of bird enthusiasts from across Sweden and neighbouring countries. The event, organised jointly by SOF (BirdLife in Sweden) and its regional branch SkOF, started in 1992 to draw attention to the plight of the Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and other bird species facing multiple threats on their migration and in their winter quarters.

This year, the day offered the over two thousand visitors not only spectacular views of migrating birds of prey such as Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* – and, of course, Honey Buzzards – but also a demonstration of bird ringing at the Falsterbo Bird Observatory, several guest speakers, a photo competition and the opportunity to explore the most recent birdwatching literature and equipment. Money raised during the event has over the years supported a range of bird conservation projects, particularly in the Mediterranean where a Honey Buzzard has fallen victim to indiscriminate and illegal hunting.

This year, the proceeds will help save another threatened bird of prey: the Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, as part of SOF's commitment as a BirdLife Species Champion.

For more information please contact Linus Blomqvist at linus.blomqvist@gmail.com

[-> Top](#)

How cheese can help bird conservation



Does the fodder used to feed the cows who produce milk for the famous Parmigiano-Reggiano positively influence the environment around? That was the question behind the project led by LIPU (BirdLife in Italy) and funded by the Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese Consorzio in the Modena, Parma and Reggio-Emilia Provinces and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The label “Parmigiano Reggiano” refers exclusively to the Parmigiano-Reggiano DOP cheese manufactured in this limited area in Northern Italy. The name is trademarked, and in Italy there is a legal exclusive control exercised over its production and sales by the Consorzio, which was created by a governmental decree.

The producers of Parmigiano-Reggiano must meet some product specifications, inspired by traditional methods, with dry fodder only coming from a specific area, characterized by great extension of permanent meadows and alfalfa fields. Grasslands, now quite rare in Northern Italy because of intensive farming techniques, play a vital environmental role and are essential for the survival of many animal and plant species.

Analysing the areas used for the production of Parmigiano, experts noticed how important bird species such as

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*, Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* and Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* are actually quite common there, and how this environment perfectly suits Eurasian Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* and Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

These results confirm that traditional farming production methods of this worldwide known cheese considerably influence the conservation of important farmland bird species. This very good example shows how it is possible to combine products' and environmental quality, a practice which should be followed much more.

For more information please contact Patrizia Rossi, Agriculture Manager at LIPU at patrizia.rossi@lipu.it

[-> Top](#)

BirdLife in Sweden 'champions' Philippine Eagle



SOF (BirdLife in Sweden) has become the Species Champion for the endemic Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*. For the next three years, SOF will raise money to support the activities of the eagle's Species Guardian, Haribon Foundation (BirdLife in the Philippines).

Species Champions are individuals, companies or foundations that significantly support work for threatened species under BirdLife's Preventing Extinction Programme. Haribon was appointed Species Guardian because of its previous work to conserve the eagle and its habitat. The Philippine Partner's name is derived from the Tagalog name for the eagle, "haring ibon", meaning 'king of the birds'.

With a global population of 200–300 pairs, Philippine Eagle is listed as Critically Endangered because of a very rapid decline caused by deforestation throughout its global range. As little as 9,220km² of old growth forest remains, and the inability of young birds to disperse to new territories is a particular

concern.

Lars Lindell, Chairman of SOF, said: "Sweden has a track record of successful conservation of indigenous birds of prey, and it is therefore especially pleasing to be able to help our sister organisation in the Philippines with the conservation of this spectacular bird as part of BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme".

For more information please contact Jim Lawrence, Programme Development Manager of the BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme at species.champions@birdlife.org

[-> Top](#)

World Première: The first Portuguese Marine IBA Inventory now available!



After 4 years of intense work SPEA (BirdLife in Portugal) has published the first Portuguese Inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs). This is the final result of a LIFE-funded Project that started in 2004 and that ran parallel to a twin initiative led by SEO/BirdLife in Spain.

Portugal is a haven for seabirds, with the archipelagos of Azores and Madeira hosting the largest populations of species such as the Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* or the Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*.

This inventory is the first of its kind in the world, as it includes not only coastal Marine IBAs, but also pure offshore areas identified for highly pelagic seabirds such as shearwaters, who live on the open sea. Those areas were recognised thanks to the deployment of tracking devices, such as GPS-loggers or compass-loggers.

This publication is especially relevant for all BirdLife Partners currently involved on Marine IBA Projects, as it contains a very detailed description of all the methods used and a Marine IBA designation step-by-step protocol. In order to increase its use, SPEA published this book both in Portuguese and English, and also created a specific web-site: <http://lifeibasmarinhas.spea.pt/y-book/ibasmarinhas/>

The abovementioned link leads to a digital book that allows users to navigate through the books pages, carry out word-specific searches or download a pdf version.

Iván Ramírez, BirdLife's European Marine Coordinator affirms this publication is a great success both on a national and international level, being an example for many countries. Meanwhile, following the letter of support signed by

the Portuguese Government in 2004, SPEA is currently working with the central government and the regions of Madeira and Azores, to have the 17 Marine IBAs classified as Special Protected Areas (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive. SPAs then form the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. The process is now on-going, but SPEA's officers believe most of the IBAs could be legally protected during next year.

For more information please contact Ivan Ramirez, European Marine Coordinator at ivan.ramirez@birdlife.org

[-> Top](#)

Caucasus Partners together for nature conservation



Doğa Derneği (BirdLife in Turkey), has been organizing Nature School, their conservation training programme, since 2005. This very well known programme has also been awarded by UNDP Turkey as one of the best 20 youth projects in 2007, and it aims to develop the human capacity for nature conservation, creating the necessary conditions for the conservation of nature. Within this context Doğa Derneği has been implementing the program for four years, with approximately 40 trainees taking part. Last year, Nature School was organized in cooperation with GCCW (BirdLife in Georgia) with trainees from both countries.

This year Doğa Derneği is going to organise the Nature School in the Caucasus region in cooperation with the BirdLife Partners in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in order to support nature conservation efforts by increasing the capacities of young people in the region. This will be achieved by creating a cross-border dialogue on nature conservation among these countries. Trainees will be exchanging best practices in nature conservation and sharing the existing experiences on environment and nature conservation legislations in their different countries.

The project is funded by the German Marshall Fund Black Sea Trust Programme and co-supported by the IUCN Caucasus Office. Doğa Derneği believes this project will further support the existing bonds among the organisations and create synergies between the participants of the training program.

For more information contact Bahtiyar Kurt, Director of Doğa Derneği at bahtiyar.kurt@dogadernegi.org

[-> Top](#)

First successful BirdLife Fundraising Workshop

Last June the European Division organized the first Fundraising Workshop for BirdLife European Partners in Brussels. The workshop aimed to improve Partners' knowledge in raising funds techniques and to help them sharing experiences that could be useful for other Partners.

The workshop lasted 3 days with different speakers giving presentations on foundations, corporates, new media, membership recruitment, membership development, fundraising strategy, legacies and much more. Twenty-three people from 16 BirdLife Partners participated, evaluating it very positively and cost effective.

If you were not able to attend but you are interested in the outcomes, you can find the presentations on the BirdLife Extranet www.birdlife.net under the European Fundraising Group.

If you would like to receive more information about it please contact Maria Solernou, Funding Development Manager for Europe at maria.solernou@birdlife.org

The 2nd Fundraising Workshop for BirdLife Partners will take place at the end of 2010. Let us know if you have any ideas you want to share!

[-> Top](#)

Alistair Gammell – 40 years protecting Europe's nature



This summer, BirdLife across the world celebrated Alistair Gammell's successful and productive 40 years of work protecting nature and biodiversity.

Alistair started his career in the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) in 1969 and covered various positions, becoming Head of RSPB International Programme in 1980. As Director of International Operations he shaped the work of the RSPB in Europe, Africa and Asia and helped many national BirdLife Partners to grow and flourish. Alistair retired in July 2009.

Hugely important for BirdLife and its Partners was Alistair's leading role in the initial negotiations and subsequent implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, and of a number of fundamental international treaties, such as the Convention on Migratory Species of

Wild Fauna and Flora. He also contributed to the creation and development of the BirdLife International Partnership and many of its international initiatives, such as the Important Bird Area (IBA) programme which is now globally implemented, and a groundbreaking agreement with the European Hunters Association (FACE) in 2004 which ended most of hunters' attacks against the EU Birds Directive.

BirdLife thanks Alistair for his endless support, for his passion for the environment and his never-ending motivation to engage in EU and international policy. We are sure he will continue to fight for birds and people, and we hope to meet and hear from him often in the new role(s) he will certainly play in nature conservation.

[-> Top](#)

Meet the BirdLife European Partnership

In every issue you have the chance to meet a staff member from the BirdLife European Partnership and learn more about their key priorities and favourite projects

For this issue, we've teamed up with Angelo Caserta, Regional Director at the European Division of BirdLife International



My name is Angelo Caserta, European of Italian origins, living in Brussels since 1999. I joined BirdLife a couple of months ago as Regional Director for the European Division. I am very pleased to be part of this organization and to be able to give my contribution, with my daily work, to the nature conservation cause.

I have always been passionate about environment since my early childhood, when I used to spend my holidays trekking first and then climbing in the Parco Nazionale Grand Paradiso, a vast protected area in the North-West of Italy with an important bird fauna, including the Golden Eagle *Aquila Chrysaetos*, the Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* and the Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*.

This early contact with a relatively uncontaminated and wild nature has certainly determined a life style which tries to include environmental-friendly principles and practices. But I always felt that being vegetarian, using low-consumption light bulbs, buying organic and fairly traded food, recycling and reusing, replacing my old car with a hybrid one was not enough.

After having worked for over 20 years in the non-profit sector, with the Fair Trade movement first and within the Development world lately, I felt it was time to align also my professional life to the environmental principles I believe in.

I am now honored to put my energy and knowledge at the service of this organization and to contribute to the amazing work that BirdLife Partners and their members do throughout the world to shape a greener planet and a brighter future for all the living species by protecting birds, biodiversity and ecosystems.

We live in a wonderful planet, so diverse, full of life, amazingly beautiful. A planet where different and seemingly disconnected ecosystems are actually inter-connected thanks to species such as birds. We are only recently starting to understand how important is the role of the long-distance moving species, like migratory birds, for the stability of the global eco-systems. When I graduated in Physics (Cosmology) 21 years ago, the science of complex networks was moving its first steps. Today we are starting to understand that there is a common pattern underpinning complex systems, whether we are talking about neurons in our brain, the Internet or the global ecosystem.

By collecting reliable data on birds through millions of passionate activists and translating these data in scientific evidence, policy and campaigns, BirdLife International has given a fundamental contribution not only to nature protection, but also to these new theories which might bring (at least I hope so) to a paradigm shift. From a 0/1, dichotomist and reductive approach to a holistic approach, respectful of the complexity and beauty of the nature and of the universe. A new paradigm where human beings understand and interiorize the fact that any action has

consequences and impacts well beyond the area we operate, the group of people we have strong links with and our lifespan. And, therefore, work and live respecting the diverse and beautiful nature surrounding us.

In "Home" by Yann Arthus-Bertrand we are enchanted by the beauty of our planet and of its living species (and birds above all), and also horrified by the damage we can make. I liked very much his words by the end of the movie: "It is too late to be pessimistic". I believe, as you all, that we can do something, that we can change this world for better and this is why we are here, working and struggling together.

You can contact Angelo Caserta at angelo.caserta@birdlife.org

[-> Top](#)

Events

European events

- July- December 2009: Swedish Presidency of the European Union
- 6-8 Oktober, Abisko, Sweden: EU Nature Directors Meeting

BirdLife Events

- 26-30 September 2009, Smardewice, near Łódź, Poland: IBA workshop (for BirdLife Partners only)
- 14-15 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium – BirdLife Training "Campaigning for Nature" (for BirdLife Partners only)
- 22-23 October 2009, Purkersdorf, Austria: The BirdLife European Forest Task Force Annual Workshop (for BirdLife Partners only)
- 26-30 October 2009, Huesca, Spain: 6th International Symposium: Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Monitoring, Modelling and Management
<http://www.ipe.csic.es/congreso/principal.html>
- 9-11 November 2009, Malta: BirdLife European Partnership Meeting (for BirdLife Partners only)
- 18-19 November 2009, Jurata, Poland: 2nd Communication, Education and Fundraising Workshop (for BirdLife Partners only)

[-> Top](#)



This publication receives its support from the European Commission, the RSPB and numerous other EU BirdLife Partners.

BirdLife International European Division - Avenue de la Toison d'Or 67 - 1060 Brussels
T: +32 2 280 08 30 - F: +32 2 230 38 02 - e-mail: europe@birdlife.org
<http://europe.birdlife.org>
Responsible editor: Angelo Caserta



To unsubscribe, follow [this link](#)

To forward this message to a friend, follow [this link](#)

To subscribe to BirdLife International Newsletters, follow this link: <http://europe.birdlife.org>

POWERED BY PHPLIST V 2.10.10, © TINCAN LTD

Credits pictures – Vol 3 Issue 7 September 2009

- News from the EU: *by X Fargas/flickr*
- News from the European BirdLife Partnership: *by P-G Bentz – www.sturnus.be*
- From the Conservation point of view: *Green Woodpecker by capitphil/flickr*
- BirdLife on the move: *by A Pautasso*
- What's more: *by Kamoda/flickr*
- Events: *by openthreads/flickr*
- The road to Copenhagen: still a long way to go: *by L Blomqvist*
- Spring Alive: every year a greater success!!!: *by Spring Alive*
- BirdLife in Sweden 'champions' Philippine Eagle: *Philippine Eagle by N Voaden*
www.rarebirdyearbook.com
- Meet the BirdLife European Partnership: *by P Funcken*