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# UN calls for end to illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds



Migratory birds include the red-breasted goose, the northern bald ibis and quail.

CYPRUS - FAMAGUSTA GAZETTE • Tuesday, 10 May, 2016

**The head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has joined a chorus of voices calling for an end to the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds.**

Poaching is a particular and growing concern across the Mediterranean region, especially in Cyprus, Italy and Malta.

Achim Steiner delivered his message ahead of World Migratory Bird Day, observed annually on 10 May.

Migratory birds include the red-breasted goose, the northern bald ibis and quail.

The illegal trade in wildlife has become a great preoccupation for conservationists, but also increasingly for nation states and communities, he noted.

"We are aware of the threat to migratory bird species that is beginning to grow exponentially across the planet. Whether it is the 25 million birds that are killed every year as they migrate across the Mediterranean; or whether it is the poisoning or as a result of the food chain, the impact on bird species across the world of modern chemicals and chemical and hazardous waste substances that have also become a threat to many bird species."

The illegal trade is estimated to affect between two and five million birds per year worldwide.

### RELATED (Archive)

**Bird trapping 'lowest ever detected during spring season'** - SPRING bird trapping appears to be on the decline in Cyprus, according to a new report. The Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) and the Foundation Pro Biodiversity (SPA) have released their new field report for their Spring 2015 Bird Protection Camp (BPC) in Cyprus, conducted in April and May. [READ MORE >>>](#)

**British bases must stamp out bird trapping, says star Bill Oddie** - British wildlife expert Bill Oddie has welcomed a recent call by Prince Charles demanding urgent action to stop the annual slaughter of half a million migrating songbirds in British Sovereign Areas of Cyprus. [READ MORE >>>](#)

**Bird activists say Cyprus government hinder anti-trapping**

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- Pancyprian campaign on reduction of food waste completed
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- Frequent shipwrecks in Mediterranean spur criticism towards EU
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- Iraqi forces score breakthrough into IS stronghold in Fallujah

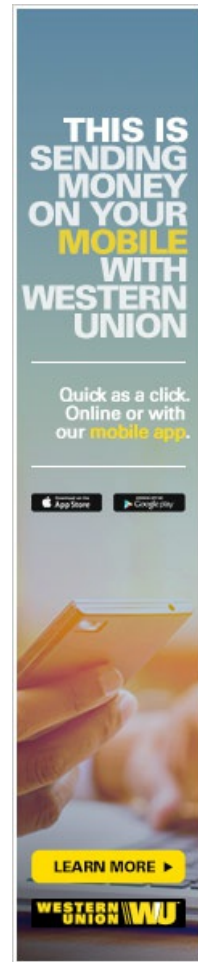
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**operations** - A TEAM of international bird conservationists expressed serious concern at the extent of illegal killing of migratory birds in Cyprus and complained about a lack of help from the authorities.

CABS and SBA have publicly declared that a "zero tolerance policy" against songbird poaching should not be just a rhetorical political statement, but an actual, consistent and permanent effort by the competent political authorities and law enforcement agencies to protect wild bird species. [READ MORE >>>](#)

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