

What do You Know About the Illegal Trapping Of Birds In Cyprus?

Why is illegal bird trapping taking place?

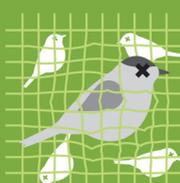


For a dish called *ambelopoulia** and the money that is made from it. A plate sells for €40-80.

How are birds trapped?



Limesticks: branches, covered in glue made from the fruit of the Syrian plum tree or synthetic glue, placed in specially pruned trees.



Mist nets: large fine nets, originally intended for the scientific research to study of bird migration.



Calling devices: birdsong is used to lure birds into the mist nets and limesticks.

Trapped birds face a slow, torturous and agonizing death.

These methods are illegal by national legislation since 1974 as well as by the European Birds Directive and International Conventions.

Why is it illegal?



The methods used are:
Non-selective there is no control over what species is caught.
Large-scale an estimated 2.5 million birds killed in Cyprus in 2014.

Why does it need to stop?

2.5M BIRDS KILLED

Legislation stipulates fines up to €17,000 and/or up to 3 years imprisonment. In reality, fines are not deterrent, as they average €800. It is illegal according to national legislation (Law 152(I)/2003), by the European Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) and International Conventions (Bern Convention of 1979 and Bonn Convention of 1979).



Non-selective: 154 different bird species have been found trapped**, 78 of which are considered threatened. In Cyprus a total of 407 species have been recorded to date, with only 54 species permanent residents and 207 migratory species which pass through Cyprus at different seasons. The remaining species are rare visitors and have been recorded only a few times.



Hundreds of thousands of birds are killed every year in Cyprus – trapping takes place primarily in autumn, but also in spring and winter (bird migration takes place in spring and autumn).

The migratory journey of birds is a challenging one that only the strongest survive. Birds face a multitude of threats throughout their journey: habitat loss and degradation, intensive farming, pesticides, draught, fires, deforestation, disturbance***, collisions with powerlines, windfarms and glass buildings, among many others.



During migration some species use Cyprus as a resting stop, others stop for the winter, while others nest in Cyprus.



The "black market" of this illegal activity is in the order of **€15 million every year**, as estimated by the Game and Fauna Service. Trapping is no longer a tradition; current activity levels reveal an industrialised, large scale and profitable business.



Negative impact on tourism: yearly losses in revenue range between **€40 and €100 million** due to the bad image illegal trapping creates, based on a study by Terra Cypria, an environmental NGO.

Why do birds matter?



Birds have an intrinsic value.



They provide pest control, they spread seeds and they pollinate.



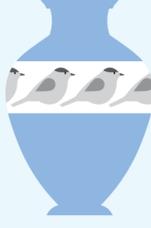
They are indicators of the state of the environment and their decline announces danger.



They add beauty to our everyday lives.



You will find them everywhere you go: the city center, the seaside, the mountains, the forest, the lake, the cliffs.



They are part of our history and culture from ancient times to today: poetry, songs, mosaics, mythology.

What can you do?



Help us spread the word – become a message multiplier – sign up to receive our e-newsletter and become a member.



Express your disagreement with the continued illegal practice through social media – follow BirdLife Cyprus on facebook and twitter.



Report illegal trapping and illegal hunting as well as restaurants illegally serving *ambelopoulia*, to the competent authorities and BirdLife Cyprus.



Make decisions and take actions that are friendly to birds and the environment.



If you know people who eat *ambelopoulia*, explain to them why this is wrong.



Help promote birdwatching in Cyprus as a sustainable alternative form of tourism.

