



PRESS RELEASE

**What next with the '153 birds'?**

Nicosia, 17 June 2016

Exactly two months ago, on a beautiful spring Sunday, BirdLife Cyprus celebrated the launch of the **drawing competition '153 birds'** at the Famagusta Gate Moat in Nicosia, with fairytales, songs, smiles, old and new friends. Today, on the final day of the competition, we review the last two months: we have received nearly 300 incredible drawings, a lot of enthusiasm for the magical world of birds. **The response has exceeded our expectations and we would like to thank each and every one who submitted a drawing and everyone who supported our campaign!**

A committee comprised of members of the BirdLife Cyprus staff and Council will have the difficult task of selecting three winners for the two competition categories: children and teens (up to 17 years old) and adults (over 18 years old). Soon BirdLife Cyprus will also create a Facebook album with the submissions received, for the public to vote for the winners in the category 'People's Choice', by liking the drawing(s) they like best. The public will choose the competition winners by liking their favourite drawing(s) here: [www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus](http://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus).

To celebrate birds and the wonder of migration, a **photography and drawing exhibition** will be organized by BirdLife Cyprus where a selection of the drawings submitted for the competition, accompanied by a photograph and information on the species they depict, will be presented. The exhibition will take place in autumn, when the migratory birds will be flying towards their wintering grounds. More information on the exhibition will be announced at a later stage.

***Funding for this project is from the Champions of the Flyway Bird Race, organized jointly by BirdLife International and SPNI (BirdLife in Israel).***

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## ENDS

For further information please contact:

Natalie Stylianou, Media Officer 22455072/99522826, [natalie.stylianou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:natalie.stylianou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)

### Notes to the editors:

- 1) **BirdLife Cyprus** is a registered, non-governmental, not for profit organisation (NGO) that dedicates itself to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Cyprus. It was formed in 2003 through the merge of the two Cyprus Ornithological Societies and now has offices in Strakka, Nicosia comprised by professional staff. <http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/>
- 2) **Why 153?** In Cyprus about 400 different bird species have been recorded. Through the campaign '153 birds' BirdLife Cyprus presents some of the 153 species affected by illegal bird trapping in Cyprus. Each year hundreds of thousands of birds are killed in Cyprus as a result of this illegal activity, with the worst year recorded to date being 2014 when it is estimated that up to 2.5 million birds were killed. With this in mind, we hope that this campaign will bring everyone closer to the world of birds and help activate them for the need of their protection.
- 3) For more information on the campaign '**153 birds**': [www.birdlifecyprus.org/153birds](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/153birds)