



PRESS RELEASE

Nicosia, 4 June 2016

Do you enjoy creating art? Discover the world of birds through drawing

Watercolours, pens or coloured pencils? Let your imagination run wild, take part in BirdLife Cyprus' **drawing competition '153 birds'** and discover the magical world of birds while helping raise awareness about birds.

Birds can be found in all corners of the globe, enriching our lives with sounds and colours. Cyprus hosts many different bird species, both permanent residents as well as many migrant bird species, as it is located on one of the main migratory flyways between Europe and Africa. Some bird species come to nest in spring and summer, other species to spend the winter here, while others use Cyprus as a stopover during migration. These migratory birds have travelled thousands of kilometres over land and sea before arriving here. A remarkable accomplishment, which, if we reflect upon it, is enough to make us observe these little feathered creatures in awe and admiration.

Have you ever wondered how the Wryneck has gotten its name, why the Kingfisher has such a long beak or why one of our endemic sub-species, the Cyprus Scops Owl has this particular plumage? Have you ever observed the wonderful colours of a Roller's plumage?

The drawing competition '153 birds' presents 49 of the many bird species recorded in Cyprus and invites you to discover them through drawing. By drawing and taking part in the competition, you support the efforts of BirdLife Cyprus to raise awareness about birds and the wonder of migration, as **selected drawings will be presented at an exhibition this autumn**.

Eurasian Stone Curlew, Long-eared Owl, Eurasian Wryneck, Common Stonechat, Cyprus Wheatear, Bearded Reedling, Hawfinch, Masked Shrike... Their names are just as impressive and diverse as the birds themselves! Discover them, draw them and submit your finest artworks **by 17 June 2016**.

There are also awards for the winners in three categories: **adults category** (over 18 years old), **children and teens category** (up to 17 years old) and **people's choice category**. **All information about the birds and the competition is available at: www.birdlifecyprus.org/153birds**

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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For further information please contact:

Natalie Stylianou, Media Officer 22455072/99522826, 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) A Facebook album was created with the species presented in the infopack: https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1103648423015197
- 3) **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.
- 4) For the **rules and regulations and information on the awards**, please click [here](#).
- 5) For the **submission form for children and teens**, please click [here](#).
For the **submission form for adults**, please click [here](#).
- 6) For the **info pack** with the photographs of birds and information on each of the species presented, please click [here](#).

