



BirdLife Cyprus

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019**





# CONTENTS

<b>Who We Are</b>	4
<b>Saving Species</b>	5
Systematic Species Monitoring	5
Monitoring the Griffon Vulture population	5
Bird Recording	6
Bird Ringing	6
Campaign against illegal bird trapping	7
Invasive Alien Species	7
Saving the Griffon Vulture – the beginning of a new project	8
<b>Conserving Sites and Habitats</b>	9
Natura 2000 sites get a helping hand through 10-year EU-funded project	9
Saving Natura 2000 sites from the bulldozers	10
Mia Milia Restoration Project	11
<b>Encouraging Sustainability</b>	12
The Barn Owl Project goes national	12
The Cyprus Bycatch Project	12
<b>Empowering people</b>	13
Campaigning at international, European and local level	13
Education and Events	13-14
The launch of a new logo	15
Our presence online and in the media	15
Our publications	15
<b>Summary income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2019</b>	16
<b>Governance</b>	17
<b>Acknowledging our Donors and Supporters</b>	18

**Owner:**  
BirdLife Cyprus  
Registered Society no. 4

**Editorial control:**  
Elena Markitani

**Cover photo:** Albert Stoecker

**Address:**  
BirdLife Cyprus  
P.O. Box 12026,  
2340 Nicosia  
Cyprus

**Tel:** +357 22455072 - **Fax:** +357 22455073  
**Website:** [www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)



# WHO WE ARE

BirdLife Cyprus is a registered, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) that works to conserve wild birds, their habitats and wider biodiversity, and maintain a healthy environment in which people on the island can prosper alongside nature, in Cyprus, through research, monitoring, lobbying and conservation and awareness-raising actions.

It was formed in 2003 through the merger of two Cyprus Ornithological Societies, and now has offices in Strakka, Nicosia.



© Emma Louise Photography

## Our Vision

An island with healthy ecosystems, where people actively safeguard nature for a sustainable future.

## Our Mission

Protecting the wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats, and wider biodiversity through monitoring, conservation and education actions, and by developing people's appreciation of nature.

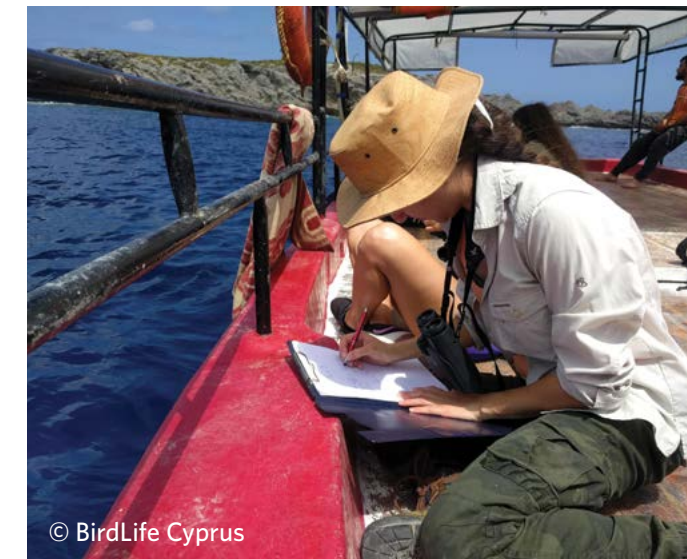


BirdLife Cyprus is the official partner of **BirdLife International** in Cyprus. BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation Partnership and is widely recognised as the world leader in bird conservation, with 121 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country or territory – and growing. The BirdLife Partnership works locally to deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

## Systematic Species Monitoring

Thanks to the dedication of our team of volunteer bird recorders, we continued our systematic bird monitoring work in 2019. Nearly 40 volunteers, including visitors from abroad, were involved in counts for Common Breeding Birds, nocturnal bird surveys, waterbirds, migrating raptors and other soaring birds, European Rollers, Griffon Vultures and the Audouin's Gull. In total, **over 550 surveys were carried out at more than 220 different sites/locations.**

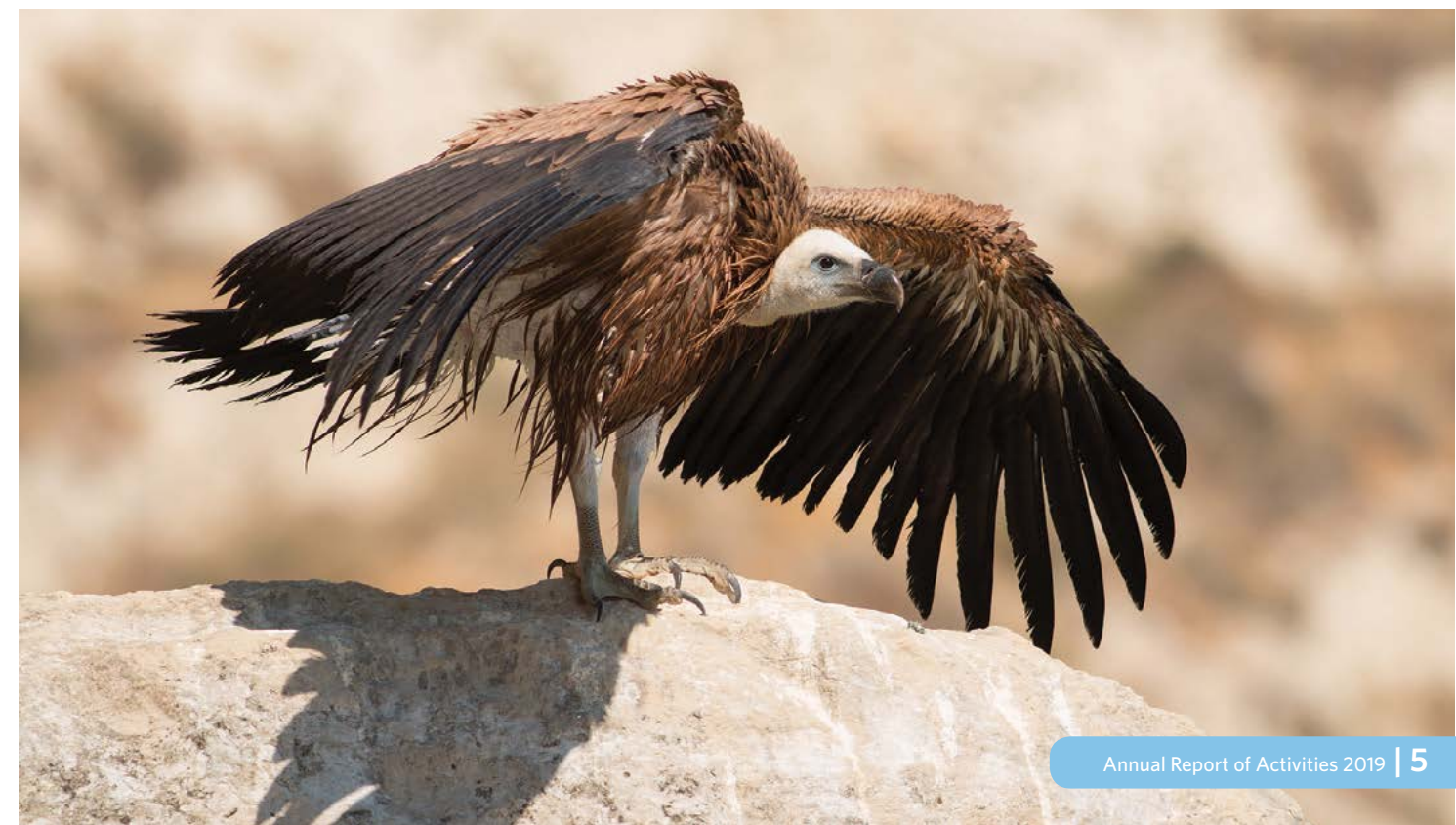
The 2019 monitoring effort was funded through a service contract to the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment for production of the Farmland Bird Indicator and Common Bird Indicator for 2019 – 2020, as well as through BirdLife Cyprus' own funds.



© BirdLife Cyprus

## Monitoring the Griffon Vulture population

During the spring vulture census, two active nests were identified at the vulture stronghold of Episkopi Cliffs IBA. Unfortunately, in July 2019, a dead vulture was found in the sea in the Episkopi area. In September 2019, a young vulture was seen grounded beside the water under the cliffs. The bird was wet and exhausted and was collected by the Game and Fauna Service, with the assistance of the SBA Environment Team, and taken to the Game and Fauna Service rehabilitation centre. The young vulture, named Nefeli, made a full recovery and was transferred to the Game and Fauna Service's acclimatization aviary in the Limassol District a month later. A second vulture was caught in the purpose-built trap-cage at the same aviary. Both Nefeli and the second vulture, named Ikaros, were ringed and fitted with GPS transmitters as part of the LIFE with Vultures project, before being released in November 2019.





## Bird Recording

In 2019, local and visiting birders, members, volunteers, survey participants and BirdLife Cyprus Council members submitted around **70,000 records** to the BirdLife Cyprus Bird Recorder, Jane Stylianou. Others were also received via the online BTO BirdTrack and eBird recording systems.

The first wet winter after several years of drought meant that the reservoirs and natural wetlands were full of water encouraging the first breeding records of both Great Crested and Black-necked Grebe for nearly 30 years. No new species were added to the Cyprus list in 2019 but a good variety of migrants used the island and in particular the wetlands as a staging and refueling stop, during both spring and autumn migration.

The BirdLife Cyprus Google Group, newly set up dedicated Twitter account @birdsaroundcy and the BirdLine continued to update local and visiting birders on the latest sightings during the year. The sightings received by the Recorder were collated and published in the Monthly Checklists throughout 2019.

## Bird Ringing



Common Redstart © Michaela Moysi

BirdLife Cyprus continued running the Cyprus ringing scheme, which is registered with EURING, during 2019. The majority of the ringing effort occurred in the Pafos area (Polis Chrysochous, Kouklia and Neo Chorio), however, ringing activities took place elsewhere too, such as Troodos, Akrotiri Peninsula and Cape Greco. During the year, **1,997 birds were ringed and 189 were re-trapped**, i.e. birds that were ringed on other occasions and were re-caught. There were also two birds controlled in 2019, these are birds ringed in other countries. The birds came from: Israel (a Reed Warbler which was caught at Akrotiri Peninsula) and Egypt (a Masked Shrike which was found dead in Alethriko).

There were also a few projects that included bird ringing, such as the research project on Cyprus Wheatears on which geo-locators have been fitted, as well as a project about the breeding species in Cyprus including the endemic species and subspecies. The latter was funded by the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation.



## Campaign against illegal bird trapping

In 2019, we continued with our long-running surveillance programme, covering the spring, autumn and winter trapping seasons. The autumn 2019 field data showed a **reduction of around 90% in mist-netting** within the survey area compared to the levels recorded in 2002. This very encouraging and welcome reduction is primarily due a reduction in trapping levels within the Dhekelia SBA. Covert surveillance by the RSPB Investigations team continued for the fourth consecutive year within the ESBA, establishing a very good collaboration between BirdLife Cyprus, RSPB and SBA Police. Sadly, for the Cyprus Republic a significant increase in trapping levels was recorded. Even worse, the dismantling of the Cyprus Police Anti-poaching Unit in November was a huge setback regarding enforcement on the ground.

In 2019, we also made good progress with our NABU-funded “**Safe Haven for birds**” project. After a lot of back and forth in 2018 with local authorities, we finally secured a license to fence our second plot of “Safe Haven” land. With fencing completed in July 2019, we moved on to the next step, that of planting native trees and bushes. On 1 November 2019, we organized an event on site for members, Council and BirdLife Staff to help with the planting of the site. In total, we managed to plant around 390 bushes and trees along the perimeter of the newly fenced area. We are now in the first stages of developing a plan for planting the inside of the plot in order to maximise biodiversity and achieve our goal of creating a safe haven for migratory birds in what is the worst trapping area in Cyprus. We would like to thank NABU, our BirdLife Partner in Germany, for making this project possible.

We also secured the continuation of MAVA Foundation funding for 3 more years (2020-2022), after MAVA evaluated the existing SAFE FLYWAYS project and declared great satisfaction with the project results and progress.

## Invasive Alien Species

*Acacia saligna* is an Invasive Alien Species (IAS), native to Australia, which was introduced to Cyprus and was widely planted in the past. It is recognised as probably the most problematic invasive alien plant species on the island. BirdLife Cyprus worked together with the RSPB, with the support of BirdLife Europe, to push for inclusion of Acacia on the List of Invasive Alien Species (Union list) of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014. Our efforts were successful and, following all due process, the European Commission's IAS Committee, comprised of governmental representatives of each EU Member State, approved Acacia for inclusion on the Union list. The updated Union list, which now includes Acacia, came into force on 15 August 2019 and requires Cyprus and all other EU Member States to put in place restrictions on the growing, importing, selling and keeping of the species and to manage Acacia to limit its spread, ideally eventually restoring the priority habitats and sites that it affects.

The above work was funded by the RSPB.



## Saving the Griffon Vulture – the beginning of a new project

2019 marked the beginning of a challenging and ambitious project to **save the Griffon Vulture from extinction**. With support from the LIFE programme of the European Union and in collaboration with the Game and Fauna Service, the Vulture Conservation Foundation and Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation, the 4-year LIFE with Vultures project focuses on tackling the main threats facing the Griffon Vulture.



© Raija Howard

In the 50s, the population numbered several hundred birds, but with only 20-25 vultures remaining today, amounting to a 94% decrease, these iconic birds are now a rare sight in Cypriot skies. The reasons behind the decline are many and complex, but the main threats facing the species are lack of food and poisoning. The EU-funded **LIFE with Vultures** project will take measures to protect the Griffon Vulture, through concerted actions to address the species' main threats. Specifically, the project includes actions against the use of poison baits, actions to counter collisions with overhead powerlines as well as actions to expand the feeder (vulture "restaurant") network that provides safe supplementary food to the vultures. Griffon Vultures will be brought from Spain for release in Cyprus, in order to strengthen the extremely diminished Cypriot population.

Another key aspect of the project is the implementation of a coordinated and targeted awareness-raising campaign, both in local communities within the vulture's range and island-wide, to spread the message of the importance of the Griffon Vulture and the problems posed by poisoned bait in the countryside.

The project rationale follows the global blueprint for vulture conservation (The Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan, endorsed by the Convention for Migratory Species), as well as the relevant EU roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing and successful examples from other European countries. Actions against poisoning include the set-up of anti-poison units, consisting a specially trained dog and its handler, improvement of the process for responding to and handling poisoning incidents, training of officers from government agencies, actions for the proper investigation of poisoning incidents and law enforcement, as well as the creation of a National Action Plan for the management of poisons.

Apart from the project partners, the contribution of other stakeholders is essential to this effort. The British Bases, the Veterinary Services, the Department of Forests, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Agriculture, the State General Laboratory, the Cyprus Police, the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus, the Cyprus Electricity Authority, Local Authorities, livestock keepers, hunters, farmers and others are key to this effort and we are confident that they will contribute where needed.

The LIFE with Vultures project, with a 1.3 million euro budget, is co-funded by the EU's LIFE programme and will be completed in 2023. Project partners are BirdLife Cyprus as the coordinating beneficiary, the Game and Fauna Service, Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundation and the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Find out more on the project's website [www.lifewithvultures.eu](http://www.lifewithvultures.eu).

The Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation is providing crucial co-funding for this 4-year project.

Project partners:

With funding by:



## Natura 2000 sites get a helping hand through a 10-year EU-funded project

2019 marked the start of the 10-year LIFE IP Physis project, focusing on management of the island's Natura 2000 network. This brings a new challenge to BirdLife Cyprus, as this is the first LIFE Integrated Project for Cyprus, with the Department of the Environment leading a project team of more than ten governmental departments, universities, consultancies and NGOs.



© Albert Stoecker

**BirdLife Cyprus' involvement in the project will focus on:**

1. Targeted field research to inform conservation actions for key bird species at SPAs (Natura 2000 sites for birds), including the Black-winged Stilt, Spur-winged Lapwing, Kentish Plover, Greater Flamingo, Mediterranean Shag and Roller.

2. Water management studies for the Larnaca Salt Lake and Paralimni Lake.

3. Practical conservation actions for key species at Larnaca Salt Lake, Paralimni Lake, Oroklini Lake, coastal sites (for the Mediterranean Shag), farmland sites (for the Roller, mainly) and more.

4. Preparation of agri-environment and similar measures for Rollers and other key species within farmland in Natura 2000 sites.

5. Studies and actions to reduce the impact of secondary poisoning on raptors.

6. Preparation of the first ever Red List for the Birds of Cyprus, to fully assess and report the conservation status of our birds, in cooperation with BirdLife International.

The Game and Fauna Service will be our key partner in the above actions, while we will also work with the whole LIFE IP Physis team on aspects such as communicating the importance of good management of Natura 2000 sites and the setting up effective management bodies for the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network is the largest network of protected areas in the world, created to protect our most beloved wildlife and unique landscapes. Our hope is that with this ambitious new project, our Natura 2000 areas will get the attention and care that they need and deserve.





## Saving Natura 2000 sites from the bulldozers

Time will tell, but perhaps one of the most encouraging developments on the site protection front in 2019 was the “support” from Brussels on the big issue of inadequate protection of Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus. It was the year when “Cyprus is failing to protect Nature 2000 sites” ceased to be just the BirdLife Cyprus position. As of November 2019, it officially became the opinion of the European Commission as well. In a letter of formal notice, the Commission called on Cyprus to correct “systemic failure to protect its Natura 2000 sites”. This is a first warning from the Commission for Cyprus to comply with the EU Directives; otherwise, it may decide to bring this case closer to the European Court of Justice.

The timing was not random, given the overwhelming pressures that Natura 2000 sites faced in 2019 all over the island. BirdLife Cyprus kept its site protection campaign at the forefront of its work. This included remaining committed to a seat on the table where important issues are being discussed - as an independent member in relevant Government Committees assessing plans and projects - but at the same time raising the alarm when needed.

On the landscape level, BirdLife Cyprus pressured tirelessly in 2019 for Strategic Spatial Planning on the placement of solar parks in the countryside. In 2019, our pressure also contributed to ensuring that **Cape Greco remained safe from golf development** – an important victory. We also invited the public to **defend Ezousa Valley** from the construction of a new motorway, through a petition calling on the State to adopt the upgrading of the existing Pafos-Polis Chrysochous road as an alternative, environmentally-sound solution with less financial and socio-economic impacts.

We also **reacted against a concert** that was about to go ahead without an environmental permit at Lady’s Mile, in Akrotiri Peninsula. Eventually, and following an overwhelming response from the public, the event moved to an alternative non-environmentally sensitive location. Akrotiri Peninsula remained at the centre of our sites and habitats campaign’s attention, as a top priority together with Akamas Peninsula, where we move in a united front with other environmental NGOs.

## Mia Milia Restoration Project

The Mia Milia Restoration Project is a bi-communal conservation project funded by Mark Constantine and involving BirdLife Cyprus and KUŞKOR, the Turkish Cypriot Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature. Hosting thousands of waterbirds annually, Mia Milia Sewage Treatment Plant is a manmade haven for waterbirds and is one of the 34 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Cyprus. It is a key site for Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, the globally Threatened White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, Common Pochard *Aythya farina*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and breeding Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* and Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*.

The project set out to tackle the threat to breeding birds at the site posed by predators such as foxes and feral cats. Anti-predator fencing was put up to protect the nests and chicks of the Spur-winged Lapwings and Black-winged Stilts. KUŞKOR organized meetings with the local municipality and got the necessary approvals for the placement of fences, as well as of signage on site, to guide and inform visitors.





## The Barn Owl Project goes national

In 2019, BirdLife Cyprus, the Game and Fauna Service, the Department of Forests and the Department of Agriculture (the Barn Owl “working group”) managed to raise the number of Barn Owl nest boxes installed across Cyprus to 400. This “working group”, set up by Agriculture and Environment Minister Kadis, drafted a **National Action Plan (NAP)** for the use of the Barn Owl as a pest control agent. Supporting this effort to set up a coordinated, island-wide programme were expert collaborators from Israel, Greece and Switzerland. We also prepared a document with nest box designs, to share with interested members of the public, as part of the ongoing effort to establish a Barn Owl NAP.



BirdLife Cyprus monitored nest boxes put up in previous years, and also installed another 22 for Barn Owl and another 18 for Common Kestrel, after examining the locations and talking with farm owners discouraging the use of rodenticides in their fields.

We will continue our project together with our partners and experts in the field and of course with farmers and communities in order to limit the use of rodenticides in our countryside.

This project is funded by the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation.

## The Cyprus Bycatch Project

Throughout the year, we continued our collaboration with the fishing industry to reduce fisheries by-catch, through our on-board participation with small-scale fishermen. Together with our partners Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, we met our goal having completed 156 fishing trips across Cyprus. With funding from the MAVA Foundation, we created a short video to support a greater BirdLife campaign under the umbrella of **#oceanalert**. The video shares a worrying message that our seas and oceans are under increasing threats, and asks from the Minister of the Environment to make sure that EU Maritime funding is dedicated to averting that.

We also organized a series of talks with the EU Commission in Cyprus titled “Sustainable Fisheries”, “Climate change” and “Natura 2000 and CAP”. Representatives from five political parties attended and expressed their parties’ position to tackling issues related to the aforementioned.

The Cyprus Bycatch Project is funded by the MAVA Foundation through BirdLife International and runs until the middle of 2020.

## Campaigning at international, European and local level

In 2019, BirdLife Cyprus participated in European-led campaigns on policy changes that have a great impact on nature, on both the European and the national level.

The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which takes up almost 40% of the EU budget, is currently a major driver of unsustainable farming in Europe. This is because it keeps subsidizing harmful farming practices and providing only minimal support to sustainable farming. Intensive agriculture is the most dramatic cause for the loss of biodiversity in Europe. In 2019, the 7-year reform of the CAP was in full flow, and BirdLife Cyprus was actively participating in BirdLife Europe’s **#FutureOfCAP** campaign. This called for a shift in the CAP that follows the principles of nature-friendly farming and of public money being used for public goods. In addition to supporting and promoting BirdLife Europe’s EU-level work, BirdLife Cyprus was also very active in 2019 in lobbying for a greener National CAP Strategic Plan for Cyprus. BirdLife Cyprus has proposed ways of achieving this through its participation as a stakeholder in relevant government-led workshops and meetings and by proposing specific Agri-Environment Schemes for funding nature-friendly farming. The new CAP, for 2021-2027, should be finalized in 2020.

Also in 2019, the Water Framework Directive, i.e. the EU law that sets protection standards for wetlands and water bodies, underwent a review by the European Commission. BirdLife Cyprus participated in the EU-led **#ProtectWater** campaign, joined by more than 130 NGOs EU-wide, calling for this legal tool to remain powerful, as it was ‘fit for purpose’. More than 375,000 people from all over Europe joined their voices with this campaign in the spring of 2019. After examining the law, the European Commission decided in December 2019 that the European law that protects water should be kept strong, but needs to be better implemented.

In spring 2019, we launched **Flight for Survival**, a BirdLife International campaign raising awareness globally of the unlawful killing of migratory birds. The campaign focused on seven bird species that are illegally killed on a massive scale at critical locations in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lebanon and Egypt. At the time of writing, the campaign reached over 3 million people across the globe. The campaign is part of LIFE Against Bird Crime, a 3.5 year project funded by the EU’s LIFE programme that aims to address the issue of illegal killing of birds at a flyway level.

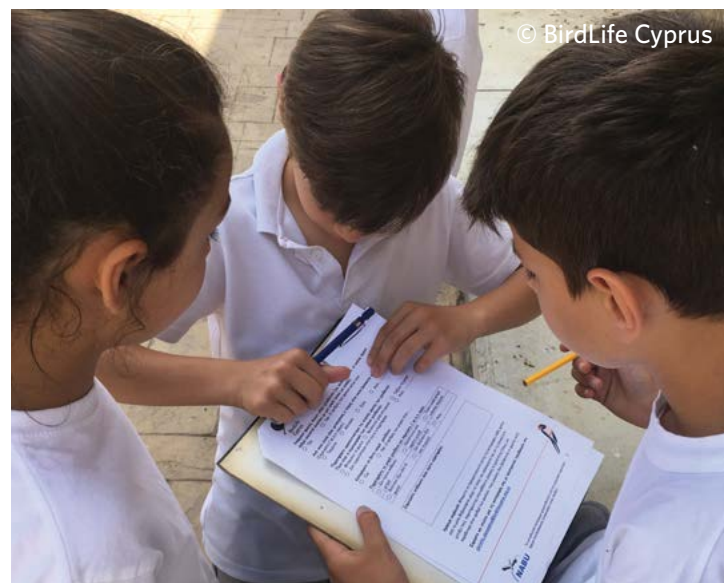
Finally, in light of the EU Parliament elections, we launched the **#IvoteNature** campaign, aiming to inform citizens about Europe’s importance for nature and to draw voter attention to the upcoming European elections, ensuring that the environment would be a real election topic. Our declaration was shared with the candidate MEPs, asking them to sign the pledge that accompanies it, thereby committing them to work for the protection of nature. Eleven candidate MEPs signed our declaration and committed to work for the protection of nature with their election to the European Parliament.

## Education and Events

The year was a milestone, as BirdLife Cyprus recruited its first **Education and Development Officer** in May 2019, with a focus on expanding, developing and growing our educational programme and awareness activities. In total, in 2019, **we reached about 1,590 children**, doubling the numbers of 2018, highlighting the importance of having a full time educational officer in our team. The educational programme was revised, aiming to raise awareness about bird migration and bird trapping in Cyprus, but also to cultivate in children connection and appreciation for nature. Thus, we delivered birdwatching and outdoor activities in important bird areas, giving to almost 300 students the chance to experience first-hand the magic world of birds and nature. Furthermore, we engaged with around 200 students during workshops, making bird baths, bird feeders and nest boxes, that they took home or used in their school, providing valuable help to garden birds.



With funding from NABU (BirdLife in Germany), we ran a **pilot citizen science project** in three primary schools for the first time, to engage students in citizen science activities by observing and recording the nesting Barn Swallows in their area. The students were excited to go outside and observe the swallows, see the chicks, find differences between Barn Swallows and House Martins and their nests and write down their observations. A 30-page teacher's manual on how to conduct the Barn Swallow citizen science project was developed for use by interested schools.



October 2019 also marked the start of an **Erasmus+ funded project titled "Seeing the World through Nature"**. The project is a collaboration between BirdLife Cyprus, BirdWatch Ireland, BirdLife Malta, the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (the leading partner), and the Polish Association for the Blind, and is funded by the European Commission through its Erasmus+ funding stream. The aim of the project, which will run until March 2022, is to develop environmental educational resources for teachers who work with students with visual impairment, in consultation with international experts in this field, to enable them to deliver an engaging and enriching programme of environmental education in a truly appealing manner. These resources, as well as a mobile application to assist children in the recognition of birds, will then be made available free of charge to educators in each of the partner countries, and across the BirdLife International partnership.

In other activities, and in cooperation with Claire Thompson, internationally-published author on Mindfulness and Nature and nature conservationist, we run short **mindfulness in nature sessions** with a small group of children, in order to practice mindfulness in nature and develop a sense of connection with the natural world.

Over the year, we estimate that our message reached over 2300 people, children and adults alike, through the many events we organized or participated in. The events organized by BirdLife Cyprus included field trips for birdwatching, workshops to build nest boxes and bird baths as well as a film screening. Our aim is to inspire people, and the younger generations in particular, about the natural world around us and inform about the need to protect it. Out of all of these, we cannot help but highlight the **"Celebration of autumn migration"**, which took place at Athalassa National Forest Park in October 2019. At the event, over 200 people celebrated autumn migration with us with a ringing demo, birdwatching and many creative activities – our biggest event yet!

In addition, with funding from the RSPB, we attended the **UK Birdfair** in August, this time focusing on raising awareness on the imminent development pressures that the Akrotiri Peninsula is facing among Birdfair visitors as well as to mobilise them to express concerns to UK MPs. A relevant talk that the BirdLife Cyprus staff gave during that weekend was attended by 63 people.

## The launch of a new logo

In October 2019, we officially launched our **new logo**, which had been approved at the 2018 AGM. In the new logo, the endemic Cyprus Wheatear, the iconic bird that has been our emblem since our formation, comes to life and takes to the skies. The bird is depicted as part of a circle that captures land and sky in the shades of Cyprus nature - its home and ours. Bird, land and sky are bound together as one whole - just as they are in nature - representing all that we as BirdLife Cyprus, and with your support, are committed to safeguarding, now and in the future.



## Our presence online and in the media

During 2019, we issued a total of 24 Press Releases and gave over 20 interviews on Radio and TV. As a result of our media work, our mentions in the media doubled compared to 2018, with a striking total of **400 media mentions**, online and print media included. Among the most popular topics were our reactions against the planned concert at Lady's Mile and the planned construction of Pafos-Polis motorway, the start of the LIFE with Vultures project and the recognition of the Cyprus Scops Owl as an endemic species in its own right.

Our social media followers have been growing steadily on our main social media platforms. In 2019, our Facebook fans increased from 6500 in 2018 to 8500 in 2019, our Instagram followers increased from 1500 in 2018 to 2000 in 2019 and our Twitter followers increased from 2000 in 2018 to 2400 in 2019.

## Our publications

**Monthly Checklist:** During 2019, we published the Monthly Checklist with the latest bird records and with many articles on bird identification, species to see, which also of course includes all the bird sightings of the previous month. This was sent electronically once a month, to all members.

**Quarterly Magazine "Cyprus Wheatear":** We also produced the quarterly magazine "Cyprus Wheatear" keeping our members updated with the latest news and informed about Cyprus birds.

**Electronic newsletter:** BirdLife Cyprus sent to around 1,400 newsletter subscribers its monthly e-newsletter.

**Cyprus Bird Report:** We produced the Cyprus Bird Report for 2018, which like every year, includes species charts and tables and a full Cyprus bird list.

**Birds of Cyprus Checklist:** The Birds of Cyprus Checklist for 2019 was also produced with tables of monthly sightings and yearly occurrences for 2014 – 2018.





# SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Income (€)	2019
Contribution from A. P. Leventis Conservation Foundation	153,941
Income from projects	221,404
Income from services rendered	7,107
Income from workshops	10,151
Subscriptions from members	10,142
Subsidies	51,909
Other income	19,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>474,409</b>
Expenditure (€)	
Payroll cost	268,293
Office administration expenses	39,856
Other direct expenses	10,151
Project costs	91,443
Costs of services rendered	14,138
Third party services	5,905
Printing and publications	8,926
Transportation and travelling expenses	8,644
Obsolete and free stock	1,382
Diminution in value of shares	314
Finance cost	1,642
Purchase of bird rings	448
<b>Total (€)</b>	<b>451,142</b>
<b>(Deficit) Surplus for the year (€)</b>	<b>23,267</b>

© BirdLife Cyprus



## Governance

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 17 March 2019, at the Skarinou Environmental Education Center, with 33 members attending. At the AGM, there was a report on activities for 2018 and a presentation of the Audited Statements for 2018, and a presentation of the workplan and budget for 2019. These were all approved by the members.

### Council

The BirdLife Cyprus Council met four times during 2019 and its members were as follows:

Melis Charalambides, Chairman  
 Dave Walker, Vice Chairman & Field Trips Officer  
 Stavros Christodoulides, Secretary  
 Christakis Charalambides, Treasurer  
 Loria Phylakti, Social Secretary  
 Jane Stylianou, Bird Recorder  
 Silvio Rasmigo, Publications Officer  
 Victor Tjernberg, Ringing and Field Trips Officer  
 Constantinos Konis, Projects and Funding Officer

### Staff

The BirdLife Cyprus staff during 2019 were as follows:

Martin Hellicar, Director  
 Christina Ieronymidou, Monitoring and Research Coordinator  
 Melpo Apostolidou, Project Coordinator  
 Tassos Shialis, Campaigns Coordinator  
 Elena Markitani, Communications Officer  
 Christia Alexandrou, Education and Development Officer (from May 2019)  
 Vasiliki Anastasi, Nature Policy Officer  
 Markos Charalambides, Research Assistant  
 Myria Achilleos, Accountant  
 Romina Constantinou, Secretary



## Acknowledging our Donors and Supporters

A number of people have helped BirdLife Cyprus during the year through their voluntary work.

First and foremost the members of the Council with their hard work, offering their time and experience to BirdLife Cyprus. BirdLife Cyprus depends a lot on volunteers, who give their time and expertise generously, and participate in the numerous surveys BirdLife Cyprus organises and help in events. A big thank you is due to them.

The BirdLife Cyprus Recorder is also a volunteer. Jane Stylianou has worked tirelessly producing the Monthly Checklist, the Annual Checklist and the Annual Bird Report. A big thank you to her for her dedication and hard work.

The work carried out during 2019, could not have been carried out without the valuable and fundamental support from our donors.

### The following were the main BirdLife Cyprus donors during 2019:

- Our President Mr. Tassos Leventis whose funding comes through the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation and contributes to our core funding, but also to specific programmes such as the LIFEwithVultures and the Barn Owl projects. Mr Leventis is acknowledged also for his invaluable general support and guidance to BirdLife Cyprus.
- The RSPB (BirdLife in the UK)
- NABU (BirdLife in Germany)
- The EU's LIFE programme for funding LIFE Against Bird Crime and LIFE with Vultures projects
- The Erasmus+ programme for funding the Seeing the World through Nature project
- The MAVA Conservation Foundation
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, for the Farmland Bird Index programme
- The A. G. Leventis Foundation for their annual donation
- Devon Birds
- Mark Constantine
- Our members (in Cyprus and abroad) through the subscriptions. Our work would not have been possible without the support from our members who add strength to our voice and help us reach our vision. Heartfelt thanks go to them for their ongoing support.







PO Box 12026, 2340 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Tel: 22455072 | Fax: 22455073  
[birdlifecyprus@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:birdlifecyprus@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)  
[www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)