



## Illegal Killing of Migratory Birds

**Source:** [DTE](#)

A study highlights that millions of birds across the [Mediterranean littoral](#) spanning **Europe, North Africa, and West Asia** continue to be illegally killed despite commitments to halve such activities by 2030.

- **Key Species at Risk:** **European Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*), **Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*), and **European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*).
- **Widespread Non-Compliance:** 38 out of 46 countries assessed are not on track to meet the [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\) Rome Strategic Plan](#).
- **CMS Rome Strategic Plan:** It aims to eradicate **illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds (IKB)** in Europe and the Mediterranean.
  - It targets a **50% reduction in illegal activities by 2030** compared to 2020 levels. The Plan builds on the previous **Bern Convention**.
- **Bern Convention (1979):** It is the **first international treaty to protect both species and habitats**, promoting coordinated conservation across **Europe and parts of Africa**.

## India and Bird Conservation

- The [National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds \(2018-2023\)](#) focuses on protecting migratory species **along the Central Asian Flyway** (areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans).
- Under the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#), rare and endangered birds are included in **Schedule-I** for the highest protection.
- India has **also signed non legally binding MOU with CMS** on the conservation and management of **Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016)**.

**Details of bird species reported from India which are listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List version 2010.1**

| S. No. | Common Name            | Scientific Name                  | Family       | Status |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1      | White-rumped Vulture   | <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>          | Accipitridae | CR     |
| 2      | Indian Vulture         | <i>Gyps indicus</i>              | Accipitridae | CR     |
| 3      | Slender-billed Vulture | <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>         | Accipitridae | CR     |
| 4      | Red-headed Vulture     | <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>          | Accipitridae | CR     |
| 5      | Pink-headed Duck       | <i>Rhodonessa caryophyllacea</i> | Anatidae     | CR     |
| 6      | White-bellied Heron    | <i>Ardea insignis</i>            | Ardeidae     | CR     |
| 7      | Sociable Lapwing       | <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>        | Charadriidae | CR     |
| 8      | Christmas Frigatebird  | <i>Fregata andrewsi</i>          | Fregatidae   | CR     |
| 9      | Jerdon's Courser       | <i>Rhinoptilus bitorquatus</i>   | Glareolidae  | CR     |
| 10     | Siberian Crane         | <i>Grus leucogeranus</i>         | Gruidae      | CR     |
| 11     | Bengal Florican        | <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>   | Otididae     | CR     |
| 12     | Himalayan Quail        | <i>Ophrysia superciliosa</i>     | Phasianidae  | CR     |
| 13     | Spoon-billed Sandpiper | <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>    | Scolopacidae | CR     |
| 14     | Forest Owlet           | <i>Heteroglaux blewitti</i>      | Strigidae    | CR     |

CR: Critically Endangered.

**Read more: [Convention on Migratory Species](#)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/illegal-killing-of-migratory-birds>

