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# NEWSLETTER

**July/August 2022**

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



MEGEG





“After implementation of laws to protect raptors in the second half of XX century, red kite populations started to recover, naturally recolonizing a good part of the original range in central and northern Europe. Many european countries where the species had been extirpated during XIX and XX centuries now hold growing populations of the species. However, population declines continued in the southern part of the range, and the species probably is already fully extinct in north Africa and near extinction in southern Spain, areas still used by wintering red kites migrating to southern latitudes every year. EUROKITE is giving a unique opportunity to start a long-term conservation project securing conservation of the last southern populations in Spain and we greatly appreciate that effort.”

**Javier Viñuela, PhD**

**CSIC Scientific Researcher at IREC (Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos, CSIC-UCLM-JCCM), Ciudad Real, Spain.**





## Interview with Carolina Rodriguez Arias volunteer at the LIFE EUROKITE project at AMUS in Spain

### How did you know about the LIFE EUROKITE project?

I was with Alfonso Godino accompanying him in a vulture capture. While we waited for these raptors, I listened to everything he told me about the project and the feasibility study he was preparing. At that time I wasn't aware of the beautiful opportunity that his words would mean for me today.

### How long will be your volunteer period?

I'm participating in the project for two months. At the same time I'm combining it with another project within the Doñana Natural Area, where I'm learning with my great team from the Nightjaring research group thanks to a research scholarship granted by SEO/BirdLife.

### In which activities do you participate in the project?

In everything they allow me 😊. My goal throughout this time is to learn, so I try to participate in everything I can. I'm helping with the feeding and surveillance of the red kites, as well as their tagging and tracking. In addition, I'm involved in office tasks such as the management of the disclosure of the project and the development of databases with information about the kites.

### How is a day in the LIFE EUROKITE project?

For me it's like a blank page that is written during the day with new experiences. I find it super enjoyable because no day is being the same as the previous one.

### What is your opinion about the LIFE EUROKITE?

I find the strategy followed by the project very interesting, since the conservation of the red kite is carried out in almost all the countries where the breeding population of the species is distributed. On the other hand, I'm loving the local approach that is applied in the reinforcement action in which I participate. In this way, I'm learning so much about the importance of involving the people who live in the place where the project is developed in order to be successful.

### Do you recommend to other future volunteer to participate in the LIFE EUROKITE?

Yes, I do because I'm learning a lot with this opportunity offered by the project. I'm very lucky to be part of a team that cares about my learning and enjoys taking the time to teach me what they know... So I just can say that my Eurokite team is awesome!!

### Do you think LIFE Programme is a good opportunity to take action and protect nature?

Cannot talk about the other projects, but based on my experience in this one I absolutely think so.



Carolina Rodriguez-Arias during the tagging action of red kites in the course of the LIFE EUROKITE project.



## The red kite family „Zistersdorf“

The red kite family Zistersdorf (Austria) has been tracked with GPS transmitters for many years and has its origin in Stillfried (Austria). A male red kite near Zistersdorf (Stillfried) was tagged before 2013. In 2015, the first offspring (3 young birds) of the adult bird in Stillfried were also tagged. One of these tagged young birds is the female Stillfried\_04, which has been breeding successfully in the same area every year since 2018. As reported in previous years, the young birds from Stillfried\_04 were always tagged. Also this year the tagging team of the LIFE EUROKITE project managed to tag the young birds.

Unfortunately, only 6 of the 16 young and tagged birds from Silfried\_04 are still alive. Anthropogenic influences play a major role in the causes of death, as 3 of these red kites were shot and one collided with a car.

More information about this family and the family tree can be found here:

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/zistersdorf-family-aut.html>

2020

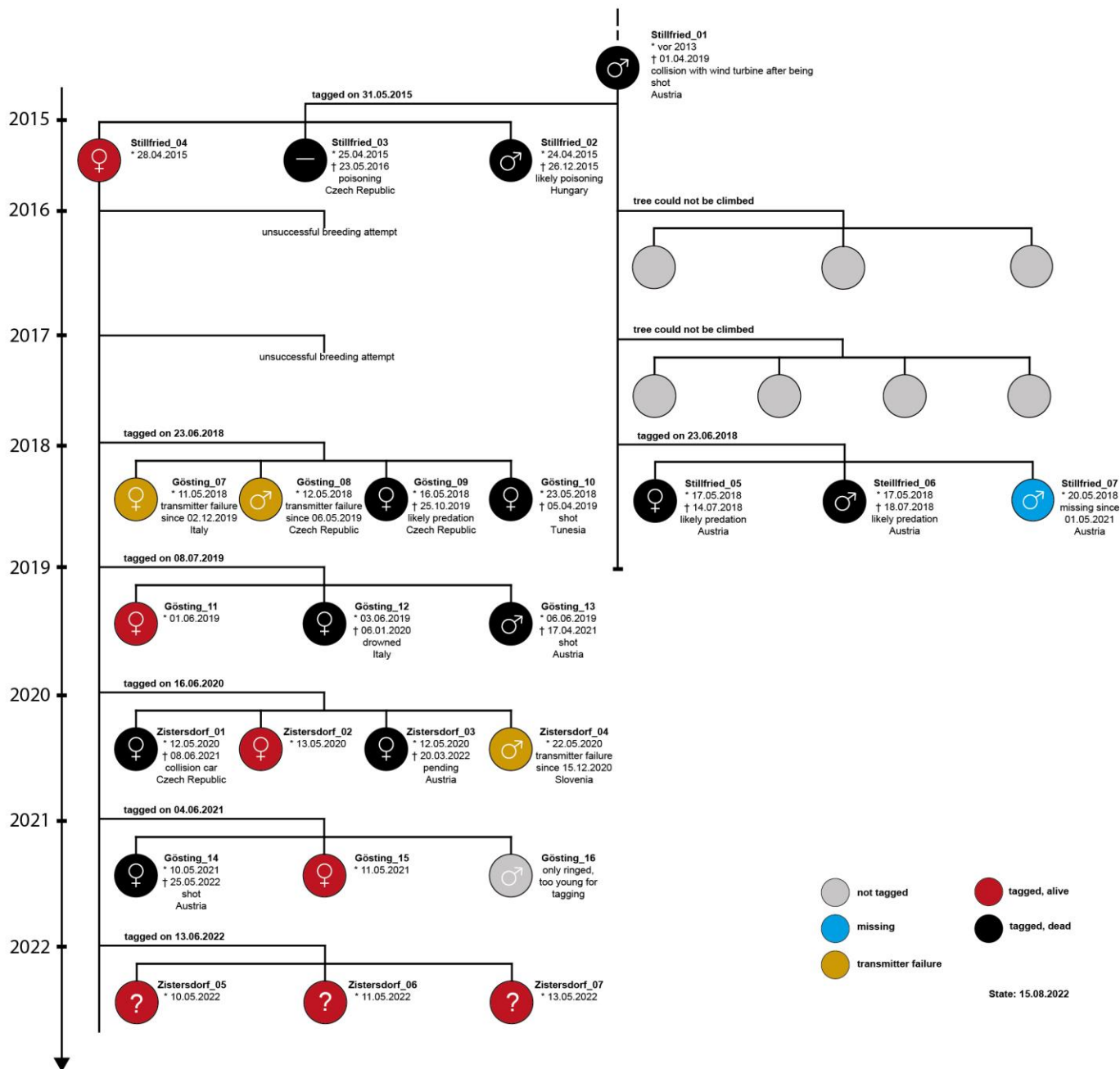


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## And where does your garbage end up?

Garbage, and at this time especially corona masks, which are carelessly thrown into the landscape, unfortunately also end up in the nest of the red kites - sometimes a real trap for the young birds in the nest. We were already able to spare a young bird an agonizing ordeal in 2021. We were able to remove the ribbon around his leg during tagging.

Unfortunately not the first and last time. Photos keep popping up with masks in the nest and people reporting wild animals getting entangled in it. Does it really have to be that the garbage is not disposed of properly and the lives of wild animals are endangered as a result?





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## Coordinating Beneficiary



The TB Raab was commissioned to implement the LIFE EUROKITE project after a pan-European public tender.



## Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



## Co-financier



## Cooperation partner



This project is co-financed by the LIFE Nature Programme of the European Union

