

No. 9134

**FRANCE, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM,
BULGARIA, SPAIN, etc.**

**International Convention for the protection of birds. Signed
at Paris, on 18 October 1950**

Official text : French.

Registered by France on 7 June 1968.

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BULGARIE, ESPAGNE, etc.**

**Convention internationale pour la protection des oiseaux.
Signée à Paris, le 18 octobre 1950**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par la France le 7 juin 1968.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 9134. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION¹ FOR THE
PROTECTION OF BIRDS. SIGNED AT PARIS, ON
18 OCTOBER 1950

The Governments signatory to this Convention,

Realizing the danger of extermination which threatens certain species of birds and concerned about the numerical decrease in other species, particularly migratory species; and

Considering that, in the interests of science, the protection of nature and the economy of each nation, all birds should as a matter of principle be protected;

Have recognized the need to amend the International Convention for the Protection of Birds useful to Agriculture, signed in Paris on 19 March 1902, and have agreed on the following provisions :

Article 1

The purpose of this Convention is to protect birds in the wild state.

Article 2

With the exceptions specified in articles 6 and 7 of this Convention, protection shall be given :

- (a) to all birds, at least during their breeding season, and to migrants, during their return flight to their nesting ground, particularly in March, April, May, June and July;
- (b) to species which are in danger of extinction or are of scientific interest, throughout the year.

¹ Came into force on 17 January 1963, i.e. the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession (a), for the States listed below, on behalf of which instruments were deposited with the Government of France on the dates indicated, in accordance with article 11 :

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
Belgium	17 January 1955	Switzerland	26 October 1955
Netherlands (for the Kingdom in Europe)	30 January 1955	Iceland (a)	29 October 1955
Spain	24 August 1955	Luxembourg (a)	19 October 1962

Subsequently, the Convention came into force on 23 July 1963, for Sweden, and on 12 September 1967, for Turkey, i.e. the ninetieth day following the dates of deposit of their instruments of ratification, which took place on 24 April 1963 and 14 June 1967, respectively.

Article 3

With the exceptions specified in articles 6 and 7 of this Convention, the import, export, transport, sale, offer for sale, purchase, giving or possession of any live or dead bird or any part of a bird killed or captured in contravention of the provisions of this Convention, during the season in which the species concerned is protected, shall be prohibited.

Article 4

With the exceptions specified in articles 6 and 7 of this Convention, the removal or destruction of nests under construction or in use and the taking or damaging, transport, import or export, sale, offer for sale, purchase or destruction of eggs or their shells or broods of young birds in the wild state, during the season in which a particular species is protected and particularly during its breeding season, shall be prohibited.

Nevertheless, these prohibitions shall not apply, on the one hand, to eggs lawfully collected and accompanied by a certificate establishing either that they are to be used for propagating or scientific purposes or that they come from captive birds and, on the other hand, to lapwing eggs, solely in the case of the Netherlands, where exceptional local conditions have already been recognized.

Article 5

With the exceptions specified in articles 6 and 7 of this Convention, the High Contracting Parties undertake to prohibit the methods enumerated below as being of such a nature as to result in the mass killing or capture of birds or to cause them unnecessary suffering.

However, in countries where such methods are at present permitted by law, the High Contracting Parties undertake gradually to introduce into their legislation measures designed to prohibit or restrict their use :

- (a) snares, bird-line, traps, hooks, nets, poisoned bait, stupefying agents, blinded decoy-birds,
- (b) decoy-ponds with nets,
- (c) mirrors, torches, and other artificial lights,
- (d) fishing nets or tackle for the capture of aquatic birds,
- (e) magazine or automatic sporting-guns holding more than two cartridges,
- (f) in general, all firearms other than shoulder arms,