

Annual REPORT

Association Biom

Year 2025



We are dedicated to the protection of wild birds, other species, and habitats, fighting against poaching and other threats to wildlife. We bring together nature enthusiasts, organize volunteer opportunities, and educate both young people and adults.

We are a professional, open, and innovative organization with a wide network of members, volunteers, and collaborators, contributing to biodiversity conservation and influencing behavioral changes in the public and relevant stakeholders in Croatia. As a BirdLife partner, we contribute to shaping international nature conservation policies and advocate for the enhancement of national legal frameworks and institutional capacities. In short, our mission is to conserve biodiversity for the benefit of nature and society.

Through its educational, advocacy, and conservation activities, Biom contributes to biodiversity and influences changes in the behavior of the public and relevant stakeholders in Croatia. As a Croatian BirdLife partner, it participates in the creation of nature protection policies at the international level.

We envision Croatia as a country rich in biodiversity, with successful ecosystems, wild species, and habitats where people value and enjoy nature, preserved through increased environmental responsibility and the engagement of the wider public, governments, civil society organizations, and the business sector.

Our goal is the conservation of nature, species, and habitats, with a particular focus on the protection of wild birds, as well as environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The natural world around us is not indestructible, and it is our duty to preserve it for nature itself and the well-being of humanity. Everything we do at Biom is focused on the conservation of biodiversity, the richness of plant and animal species, and the habitats in which they live.

- 2 Introduction
- 4 Bird Conservation Program
- 10 Botany and Habitat Program
- 13 Mammal Conservation Program
- 15 Safe Flyways Program
- 18 Public Outreach Program
- 22 Communications in 2025
- 23 Participation of Biom Association in Networks and Initiatives
- 24 Advocacy
- 25 SBusiness sector partnership Organisation development
- 26 Finance and Administration
- 27 Office employees and Management board
- 28 List of Financiers, Co-Financiers, and Donors in 2024
- 29 How Can You Get Involved?



WHAT MARKED THE YEAR 2025?

By adopting the new Regulation on the Ecological Network at a session of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, Croatia has expanded the Natura 2000 network to include marine areas and, for the first time, designated areas important for the conservation of seabirds from the tube-nosed, gannet, and shearwater groups. In addition, the Croatian Parliament ratified the Agreement on the World's Seas, further enabling the development and establishment of marine protected areas. This decision is particularly important because seabirds are currently the most threatened group of birds in the world. Over 30% of species are globally threatened, and nearly half of all populations are declining. Within the framework of the LIFE Artina project, systematic field research and monitoring of birds using GPS transmitters have mapped their movements and identified key marine areas crucial for feeding and movement.

Bird conservation program

The challenging activity of controlling the small Indian mongoose is being carried out even better than we expected, and positive results can already be seen for several native species. We have stopped being merely advisors, researchers, and program developers... and have become active participants in the direct implementation of successful control of an invasive species

Mamal conservation program

The Ministry of Environment and Green Transition has initiated the process of drafting the Action Plan for Combating Illegal Activities Against Wildlife for the period 2026–2029. We are proud to highlight that our team contributed to the preparation of the draft of this strategic document. The plan is expected to be adopted during 2026, and its adoption will mark a key step toward a systematic and comprehensive approach to combating crimes against nature.

Safe Flyaway program

The greatest achievement this year is securing the Mosaic of LIFE project, which represents the realization of a long-held dream: building on the excellent results of the Dinara back to LIFE project, expanding the scope of our work, and raising the bar for expected outcomes. The project is based on strong and high-quality partnerships and on activities that will deliver tangible and long-term benefits, not only for nature conservation but also for the preservation of traditional ways of life, with a particular emphasis on extensive livestock farming, since nature protection and agriculture in this area are inseparably linked.

Habitat and Botany program

For a diverse team like Public Outreach, it is difficult to single out one key achievement, as the ultimate impact of our work is built on many small successes—from launching a new website, a series of communication campaigns and materials, a greater number and variety of educational programs, additional citizen science actions, new events for members, two special fundraising campaigns, and many more. We are proud to continue implementing numerous long-standing activities, such as the Ornithology Camp on Učka, birdwatching events for the public, and a series of volunteer actions, while still finding time to develop new ways to collaborate and grow together with our community!

Public Outreach program



BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

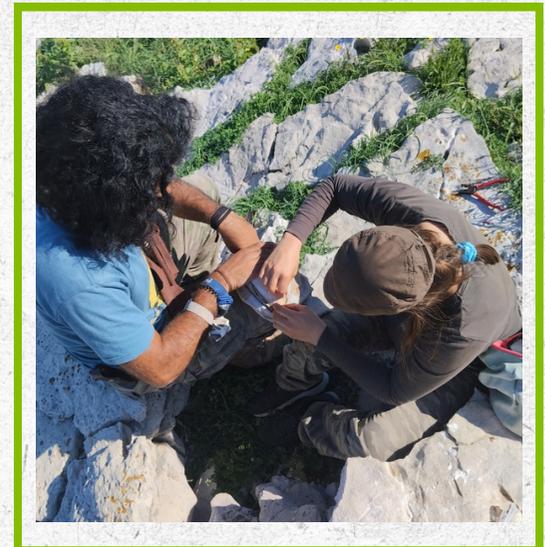


Over the past few years, we have dedicated ourselves to important projects for the conservation of birds and their habitats in Croatia, including the LIFE Artina, LIFE TETIDE, and LIFE SUPPORT projects. Through these initiatives, we aim to protect endangered marine and terrestrial species, strengthen the network of protected areas, and raise public awareness about the importance of nature. The experience and results we have gathered are now helping us plan and implement new projects within the European Union's LIFE Programme, allowing us to continue our joint efforts to conserve biodiversity.

LIFE Artina and LIFE TETIDE

Although the activities of the LIFE Artina project were completed back in 2023, the project was officially concluded in 2025 with the long-awaited designation of two new marine protected areas (SPA): the Lastovo Channel and the Northern Adriatic. These areas are crucial feeding and resting sites for several threatened seabird species in Croatia—the Scopoli's shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), the Yelkouan shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), and the Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) and have been included in Croatia's Natura 2000 ecological network.

In the meantime, we are continuing conservation activities at their important colonies in the Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park as part of the LIFE TETIDE project. Several field visits have been carried out to monitor the breeding success of the Yelkouan shearwater and the Scopoli's shearwater, as well as to assess the effectiveness of invasive rat eradication measures during the nesting season.



Particularly positive results were recorded at one of Croatia's largest Scopoli's Shearwater colonies, where breeding success increased from 15% in the previous year to approximately 65% this year following eradication efforts.

These results clearly demonstrate the importance of continued biosecurity actions for seabird conservation. Field activities were successfully implemented with the support of the Public Institution Nature Park Lastovo Islands and the valuable contributions of volunteers.



In addition, analysis of camera trap footage from seabird nesting sites was conducted using artificial intelligence tools to better understand predator-seabird interactions. Preliminary results of this work were presented at the 6th Croatian Symposium on Invasive Species in Zagreb.



In parallel, project research and data analysis activities advanced in 2025. Genetic analyses of rat tissue samples collected from island colonies were completed and presented at the 60th Croatian and 20th International Agricultural Symposium held on Island Brač, providing important insights into genetic structure and origin of invasive rat populations, and supporting evidence-based biosecurity measures.



Public outreach and education also remained an integral part of LIFE TETIDE. Educational activities were carried out during local events including "Kalanko" festival on Vis and Fishermen's night on Lastovo, as well as during workshops in elementary schools on both islands. While engaging children and the local community through interactive workshops and hands-on learning, these activities helped raise awareness of seabird conservation, the threats they face, and the importance of protecting their habitats.

LIFE SUPport

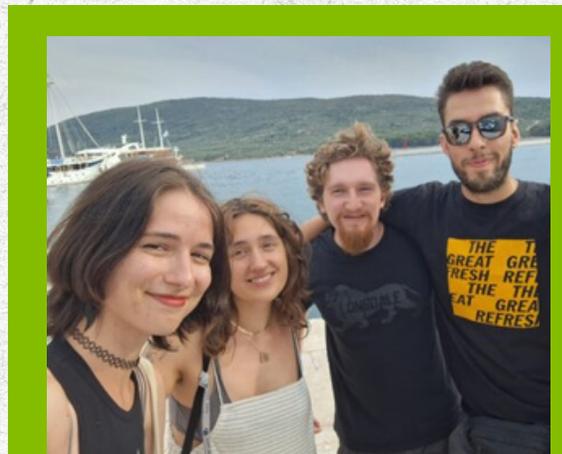
In the third year of implementing the LIFE SUPport project, the project partnership also faced certain unforeseen challenges. As one of the project partners, the Agricultural Cooperative “Otok Krk,” decided to cease its operations, we agreed to involve new partners—the Municipality of Baška and its affiliated partner, the municipal company Baška Ltd.

The new partners will continue implementing the activities previously carried out by the Agricultural Cooperative. The project partnership has also successfully submitted the *mid-term* report, marking the halfway point of the project’s implementation.



This year, the volunteers of SUP PATROLA spent July and August at sea around the Kvarner colonies, educating numerous visitors about griffon vultures—particularly about the importance of not disturbing chicks in the colonies. They also occasionally took part in rescue operations for chicks whose first flights were unsuccessful, all in coordination with the staff of the “Beli” Visitor and Rehabilitation Centre for Griffon Vultures.

The increase in the number of breeding pairs of griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in the project area continued in 2025, with a total of 156 individuals recorded at the known colonies, and particularly encouraging was the rise in breeding success. We continued the successful implementation of activities involving our dedicated volunteers, including monitoring electrocution risks, reviewing footage from cameras installed at the griffon vulture nest on Plavnik Island, and conducting the volunteer initiative popularly known as the SUP PATROLA.



The LIFE SUPport project includes a wide range of activities. As part of this, we carried out the mapping of pasture areas on the Kvarner islands and prioritized them when considering their future restoration and management. These pastures are inseparably linked to the survival of griffon vultures in Croatia, as the sheep which graze on them are the most important natural food source for their population. As part of this activity, a workshop was held on Cres Island aimed at exchanging knowledge among stakeholders in the areas of both LIFE SUPport and Dinara back to LIFE projects, which was coordinated by the Biom Association.



Staff from the partner organization of the LIFE SUPport project, the Public Institution “Priroda”, installed a perch at the Strganac feeding site, which is managed by the institution, to ensure that birds experience minimal stress when they are returned to the wild after rehabilitation. Additionally, a new observation hide was installed near the feeding site.

In 2025, the first in a series of workshops was held on monitoring bird electrocutions on electrical infrastructure, specifically power line poles, and on establishing mitigation measures to reduce this threat. These workshops are conducted in coordination between Biom and HEP ODS, with the support of other partners, and two more are scheduled for 2026.



We continued activities aimed at preserving sheep farming on the Kvarner islands and commissioned a study, which revealed an alarming situation. The continuous decline in sheep numbers poses a serious threat to the survival of griffon vultures, as dead sheep are their most important natural food source. The biggest challenges in sheep farming are protecting the animals from non-native wildlife (wild boars and jackals) and the need to restore overgrown pastures. In the next phase of the project, we plan to work more intensively on these challenges and on improving the management of domestic animal carcasses, given their importance as a food source for vultures.

The conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia and the significant positive results from implementing a wide range of conservation measures -primarily reflected in the continuous increase in the number of breeding pairs -have also opened up new opportunities in the field of scavenger conservation in Croatia. In addition to considering further population expansion to some historical nesting sites, the time has come to seriously start thinking about the potential reintroduction of the cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) to Croatia.



This species, which became extinct in Croatia in the mid-20th century, also disappeared from many parts of Europe, and in recent years, reintroduction projects have been implemented or planned in areas where it once nested. With this goal in mind, we decided to develop a feasibility study to assess the real possibility of taking this significant step. The study, including consultations and workshops with all interested stakeholders, will be carried out throughout 2026.

Activities Outside LIFE Projects

Golden Eagle was also monitored as part of the service work we did for Nature park Krka and Public institution SKŽ this year and unfortunately the species is currently missing from the park and surrounding plateau. Poisoning is thought to be the main reason for its absence. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was not found either, but this is likely the result of predation by the omnipresent Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)



Another group of bird species that is not doing well in and around Krka NP are those of open grasslands (for example Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicanus*) and two species of lark), all of which are on the brink of extinction due to the disappearance of this habitat type. For PP Velebit we prepared a monitoring protocol for bird species of open habitats (incl. dry grasslands), so their status should be evaluated there as well in the coming years.

On Mt Učka we were searching for the Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*), for which anecdotal evidence exists of its presence in the area, but our monitoring could not confirm this. For our monitoring in Telašćica NP we deployed a GPS transmitter on a successfully fledged juvenile

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) 'Đuro' to monitor its first autumn migration. It is currently spending its first winter in Nigeria. While looking forward to Đuro's return in 2026, we are also awaiting the results of no less than three new LIFE project applications, covering a variety of target species and habitats.



Firstly, the resubmitted **DIVING DUCK LIFE**, together with the Bulgarian BirdLife partner, Public institution PP Kopački rit, and 13 other partners from Southeast Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Through the project, the restoration of over 2,000 hectares of wetlands in Kopački rit is planned, which would significantly benefit the project target species: Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*).

We also joined the **LIFE MEDWINGS** application, which aims to improve breeding conditions for the Audouin's Gull across the entire Mediterranean breeding range of the species. It follows recommendations of the International Species Action Plan for Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) which was revised in 2025. Lastly, as a partner in the **LIFE PERSISTS** project we hope to start working on the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), which is currently endangered in Croatia and whose remaining population is restricted to a single island.



TOP 3 moments

The Griffon vulture Management Plan has been adopted, including an action plan that defines a wide range of activities aimed at achieving the long-term conservation of this species in Croatia, with the goal of implementing effective conservation measures.

New areas of the Natura 2000 network have been designated for the conservation of seabirds (SPAs - Special Protection Areas). These include the Lastovo Channel and the northern Adriatic, and their designation will make a significant contribution to the conservation of species such as the Yelkouan shearwater and the Scopoli's shearwater.

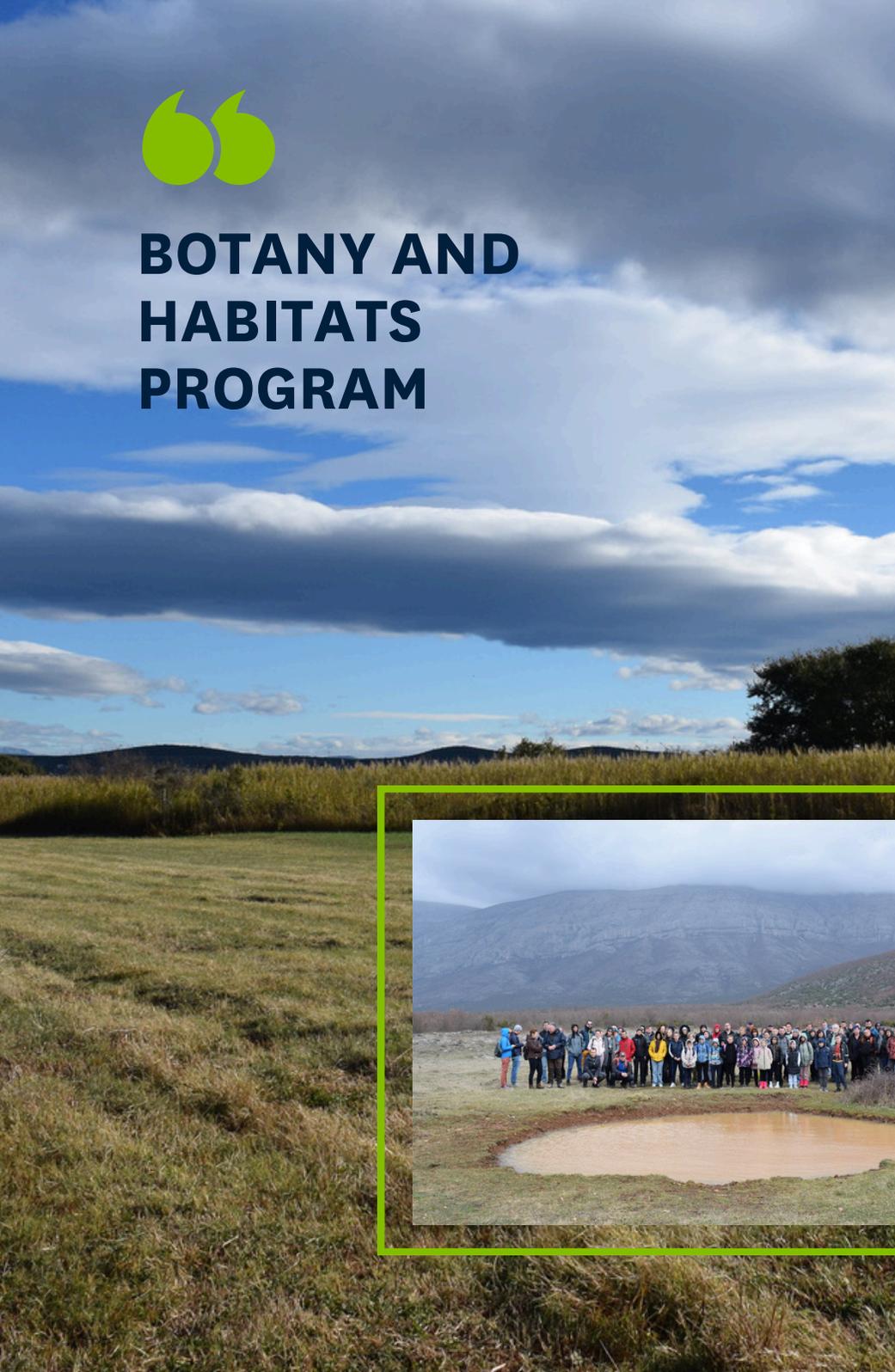
Members of the Biom team working on bird conservation visited the islands of Krk and Prvić in 2025. In addition to visiting key sites for Griffon Vultures, the team planned future activities, analyzed previous results, exchanged experiences, and strengthened teamwork. We had a fantastic time!

“Many nature conservation efforts require years of dedicated and persistent work, such as the designation of new protected areas or the development of species management plans. That is why the continuous support of our members and donors plays a crucial role in making these success stories possible.”

Dries Engelen, program manager



BOTANY AND HABITATS PROGRAM



The year 2025 was a period of change and uncertainty, but also of the gradual strengthening of our work in botany and habitats. Although it began with several projects coming to a end, it soon brought us new opportunities, the continuation of successful activities, the initiation of larger projects, and laid solid foundations for future work. The focus remained on long-term nature conservation through fieldwork, scientific methodologies, and strong collaboration with partners.

We entered 2025 with a great deal of uncertainty, as most of the projects within our botany and habitats team were nearing the end of their implementation or had already finished. At the end of 2024, we completed the Forest Beyond Borders project, through which we spent two years mapping potential old-growth and primeval forests across the Western Balkans using remote sensing methods. The project was successfully implemented, and within the partnership, led by EuroNatur, we agreed to submit a new project proposal for continuation of activities in early 2025, with the aim of launching concrete field activities to verify the collected data, as well as taking conservation and protection measures for previously unprotected old-growth and primeval forests.

At the end of March, the Still Water Revival – Restoring and Conserving Still Water Ecosystems of Mediterranean Karst Mountains project came to an end with the organisation of a highly successful final conference in Sinj, attended by more than 100 participants from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. Over the course of three years, the project focused on mapping and restoring ponds across the Biokovo, Dinara, Northern Velebit, and Učka areas, resulting in the restoration of 34 ponds and wells within the project area. As part of the project, we also developed and printed the Guidelines for the Restoration of Ponds and Wells Using Traditional Methods, which were distributed to relevant stakeholders and are also available on the websites of Biom and the project partners.



> [Download here!](#)

Already by the end of 2024, we were granted approval for the **InfraSETS – Infrastructuring Social-Ecological Transformations in Water Management and Nature Protection in Karst Landscapes** project, through which we continue our work on small freshwater ecosystems. The project launched in July and will run for five years. In addition, towards the end of the year, we carried out a smaller service for the Public Institution Natura Histrica related to the development of a pond restoration plan, with the expectation of continuing and expanding such activities in the period ahead.

Although the situation regarding projects was highly uncertain at the end of March, it began to improve quite quickly. We first received approval for the **Mapping and Strictly Protecting Primary and Old-growth Forests in the Western Balkans** project, through which we will continue our work on mapping and promoting the protection of old-growth forests over the course of three years. The project is led by the EuroNatur Foundation, with Biom joined in the partnership by organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania. Shortly afterwards, we also signed contracts for the development of a detailed habitat map for the Ravni kotari area, and for carrying out monitoring of amphibious habitats and four-leaf clover fern at selected carp fish ponds in Zagreb County. Both services were successfully completed by the end of the year, significantly expanding the existing habitat map to cover the Ravni kotari area, while the monitoring confirmed a favourable conservation status of the habitats and the target water fern.

April brought additional positive developments. Following several years of preparation, in September 2024 we submitted the **Mosaic of LIFE** project - a continuation of the highly successful Dinara back to LIFE project, which concluded at the end of 2023. This is the largest project Biom has undertaken to date, implemented in partnership with the Public Institution Krka National Park, the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Zagreb, the Ecological Association "Krka Knin", and the Fire Fighting Association of Split-Dalmatia County, along with associated partners from the relevant ministries and public institutions. The project launched in September, and over the following five years, we will carry out numerous activities aimed at restoring overgrown grasslands in the Dinara, Cetina, Svilaja, and Krka areas, as well as improving the status of target bird species associated with these habitats. Particular emphasis will be placed on preserving the mosaic character of the Mediterranean landscape, collaborating with local stakeholders, and developing the first result-based measure for grasslands, which will become available to farmers after 2027.



By the end of the year, two more significant projects were approved. The **Restoring Wetlands: A Pathway to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience** project is focused on the restoration of wetland habitats in the Vransko jezero and Ravni kotari areas, and represents a continuation of our long-standing collaboration with the Public Institution Vransko jezero Nature Park, which began back in 2016. Project activities have already started, with the first major action involving the planting of a green barrier along the Vrana–Pakoštane road to reduce disturbance to birds and prevent bird casualties.



In October, we received confirmation of funding for the **Heart of the Dinaric Karst: Protecting Nature and Empowering Communities as a Path to Sustainable Management** project, which we will implement over three years under the leadership of EuroNatur, in partnership with organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is focused on cross-border cooperation in the conservation of karst fields in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Dinara and Cetina areas in Croatia, with an emphasis on the restoration of grassland habitats.

We closed the year on a somewhat less positive note, with the news that the Via Aqua project, submitted under the Interreg Slovenia–Croatia programme, had not been approved. Although the project was not accepted in this round, the developed concept remains relevant and we plan to refine it and resubmit it in a future opportunity.

TOP 3 moments

The launch of the Mosaic of LIFE project – an opportunity for capacity building and sharing best practices in grassland restoration

Development of a habitat map for the Ravni kotari area and the launch of the Restoring Wetlands: A Pathway to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience project, through which we will build capacity for wetland habitat restoration and promote their conservation

Taking into account all the projects we will be implementing, a coherent narrative is emerging that allows us to connect activities and build capacity for the restoration of diverse habitats - not only within Biom, but also among a wide range of stakeholders and partners. This will be particularly important over the coming years, as numerous institutions are set to begin implementing projects under the Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme, which very often focus precisely on habitat restoration



Ahead of us lies a year filled with highly intensive activities, which we will carry out through a range of different projects in the field and in collaboration with numerous partners. We expect these processes to bring concrete progress in nature and habitat conservation, and we hope that by the next annual report we will be able to present a series of interesting, measurable, and long-term significant results.

Tomislav Hudina, program manager





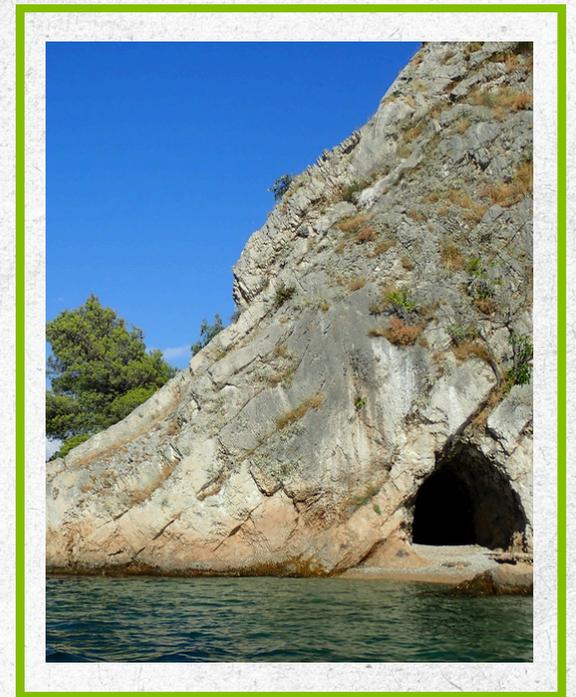
MAMMAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM



In 2025, we made a decision that parts of this programme would be merged into other programmes, depending on the topic they address. Invasive mammal species control that threatens birds will be carried out through the [Bird Conservation Program](#), mammal conservation activities relevant to a specific habitat will be implemented as part of the [Habitats and Botany Program](#), while conflicts with wildlife will be addressed either through the Safe Flyways Program or the Public Outreach Programme.

Nevertheless, prior to merging into the other programmes, in 2025, we carried out a number of activities as usual.

We continued mapping sea caves suitable for the Mediterranean monk seal, an activity we have been carrying out along the entire Adriatic coastline for a number of years now, and the full length of our coastline (over 5,000 km!) will soon have been surveyed in this way. The project results continue to show that sea caves are poorly recognised as an important habitat and are under significant disturbance pressure, particularly during the tourist season. We also began assessing the foraging potential for the Mediterranean monk seal, with final results expected in 2026.



We continue to carry out small Indian mongoose control within our project area, while also monitoring other invasive species control projects that are increasingly being implemented across Croatia. We are very pleased to see that the problem of invasive species is being taken increasingly seriously and that control measures are beginning to be actively implemented.

The wolf and jackal are two species we engage with regardless of whether we have a specific project on the topic. Their pronounced and complex conflict with human activities makes them an unavoidable subject for anyone working in nature conservation. The expansion of the golden jackal is closely intertwined with the issue of griffon vulture conservation, as the appearance of the jackal in a given area threatens traditional sheep farming, while the conflict between the wolf and extensive livestock farming is an ongoing issue that forms part of our grassland management projects.



TOP 3 moments

We have merged our activities into other programs.

We are becoming increasingly important actors in the field of Mediterranean monk seal conservation.

We continue invasive species removal processes.



Although the Mammal Conservation Programme no longer exists as a separate organisational unit, we continue to carry out our activities - from now on with an even greater level of integration with the other programs. You will be able to follow our activities through the Bird Conservation Programme and the Habitats and Botany Programme.



Ivan Budinski, program manager



SAFE FLYWAYS PROGRAM

Through the Safe Flyways program, we contribute to reducing direct threats to birds in Croatia using a comparative and comprehensive approach. In 2025, through a public campaign, development of a strategic document, monitoring of legislative changes, collaboration with public institutions, dialogue with key stakeholders, and volunteer programs, we took important steps towards reducing the scale of illegal killing of birds, poaching and wildlife poisoning, as well as lead poisoning from hunting ammunition.

In September 2025, we launched a public campaign dedicated to the issue of wildlife poisoning. The campaign "Fables that Protect Nature" captured public attention through the creative concept of a children's picture book. Through two fables and a beautifully illustrated picture book, we educate the youngest audiences about the importance of nature conservation, the threats associated with wildlife poisoning, and the role of all stakeholders in protecting nature. The "Fables" serve as a communication and educational tool that will be permanently available in libraries throughout Croatia.



Successful prosecution of poaching - workshops for judges and state attorneys

In collaboration with the **Judicial Academy**, we organized four specialized workshops for judges and state attorneys, dedicated to the successful prosecution of criminal offenses involving the illegal killing and capture of birds. The workshops were held in Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek, and Split. Participants were introduced to the issue of illegal killing and capture of both game and non-game bird species. Biom's experts presented the problem, the types of poaching, and its motivations and effects. A senior criminal court judge outlined the international and domestic legislative framework, while a state attorney prepared practical exercises based on real cases and existing practice.



In collaboration with the **Police Academy, the Croatian Police Directorate, and the Czech Ornithological Society (BirdLife Czech Republic)**, we organized training on antipoisoning dog units as the best tool for detecting wildlife poisoning cases. Detection dogs are indispensable in the day-to-day work of ranger services in Spain, Italy, and Greece. Early detection and removal of poison baits is one of the most effective measures for a direct reducing the threat of poisoning.



Collaboration with hunters for the protection of the griffon vultures

Data collected on lead levels in griffon vultures in Croatia point to an urgent need for hunters to transition to lead-free ammunition. Of the 25 individuals tested, 44% had lead levels exceeding the background intake of this heavy metal. The most effective measure for protecting griffon vultures from lead poisoning from hunting ammunition is a permanent transition by hunters to lead-free ammunition. As part of the LIFE SUPport project, Biom organized four workshops on lead poisoning and the effectiveness of lead-free ammunition. 5,920 bullets were distributed to 148 hunters from the islands of Krk, Cres, Rab and area of Učka mountain - an amount equivalent to over 56 kilograms of lead that will not end up in nature, the environment, or game meat consumers.



You are our strength!

We continue with volunteer network for monitoring and tackling the illegal killing and trapping of birds, and it appears that our joint efforts are yielding good results. Over five years of the volunteer program for monitoring quail poaching, we have managed to cover more ground than ever before while simultaneously recording the fewest sites with lures to date. A significant decline in interest among Italian poachers in Croatia as an illegal hunting destination is becoming evident. Hunting tourism agency websites are removing offers for quail hunting with unlimited catch, and several hunters have even “praised” Biom for shutting down their criminal business.





In collaboration with the Czech Ornithological Society and the State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia, we organized a three-day search for poison baits in the area of the island of Krk. Throughout the past year, we received reports from citizens, which led us to decide to organize a bait-searching action with the help of detection dogs used by BirdLife partners from the Czech Republic. Over three days, we searched over 150 hectares of grasslands, overgrown pastures, and forest. We will continue searching for and reporting poison baits in areas critical for the conservation of the griffon vulture and the golden eagle.

Poaching in the Neretva Delta is an almost daily and nightly occurrence. In the Neretva reserves, gunshots and lures can be heard from sunset throughout the entire night. When weather conditions allow, around a hundred shots are fired at the Ušće site every night, and significantly more on weekends. This year we analyzed the results of passive acoustic monitoring. During the 2024/2025 hunting season in the "Ušće Neretve" and "Pod Gredom" reserves, the analysis identified 19,407 gunshots, though due to device failure the data does not cover the complete season. The intensity of poaching in the Neretva Delta reserves is severe. In the "Pod Gredom" reserve, during a single day from 4 PM to 1 AM, an average of 38 shots are fired during September, 39 during November, and 246 during December.

TOP 3 trenutka u godini

The "Fables that Protect Nature" Campaign

Development of collaboration with the Judicial Academy

We launched poison bait search operations using antipoisoning dog units.

“Over the past five years, 139 people have been convicted in Croatia for poaching game and strictly protected species. We are aware that only a small percentage of cases reach a successful conclusion in court. However, we thank all the brave

citizens, committed hunters, and dedicated officers of the police, inspection services, and judicial system. I believe that with an engaged society and a prepared law enforcement and prosecution system, we can successfully reduce the pressure poaching puts on nature in Croatia.

Boleslaw Slocinski
vprogram manager





PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM



This year too, we strengthened our community in various ways and tirelessly worked together with it on nature conservation!

Among our educational activities, the topics of urban biodiversity once again stood out. Students from **six primary schools and gifted children from the Vjetar u leđa association** had the opportunity to compare their intelligence and resourcefulness with that of crows, while also learning more about coexistence with these exceptionally intelligent birds.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, we surveyed public attitudes towards crows in urban environments, with as many as 1,885 citizens sharing their views. We presented the survey results and the topic of coexistence with crows in cities to residents at the Veslačko naselje local community board.

As part of our educational activities on coexistence with urban biodiversity, we also touched on other groups of organisms through talks **in Zagreb and Sinj**, botanical walks, night wildlife tours, and nature observation events. We also educated citizens on ways they can make glass surfaces safer for birds, and published Guidelines for the Conservation of Swift Nesting Cavities. We also participated in the Science Picnic, which this year attracted more than 5,000 visitors, bringing the topics of bird and nature conservation closer to primary and secondary school students.

We introduced primary school students in Rijeka, Rab, and Mali Lošinj to the challenges faced by griffon vultures in Croatia, while for the little ones on Lastovo and Vis we brought the life of seabirds closer through games, workshops, and participation in local events.





The Bird Identification Training (**BirdID**) this year was attended by as many as 26 participants, who through lectures and eleven field trips across Croatia learned to identify Croatian bird species. In addition, a shorter, localized training on identifying local bird species in the area of the Nature park Žumberak –

Samoborsko gorje was also held. This year the programme brought together the largest number of participants to date, which particularly delights us and confirms the strong interest of our members in birds and their habitats.

In 2025, volunteers were able to take part in IWC, monitoring of Eurasian eagle-owl, and counting of the rook in the Zagreb area, continuing the long-standing tradition of citizen science and active public involvement in monitoring the state of nature. During the summer months, volunteers visited griffon vulture nests with the aim of educating tourists and rescuing individuals that had fallen into the sea, while others monitored the condition of young vultures in nests via camera footage and participated in electrocution monitoring.



We traditionally gathered for education and bird ringing at the **Učka ornithological camp**, which brought together 112 participants from 8 countries. In addition to learning about bird identification and ringing, participants themselves created educational sessions and shared knowledge as part of the daily activities.

An important exchange of knowledge was also carried out by Biom's youth group, **Primar**, whose members met with other bird enthusiasts from across Europe at an international conference in Slovakia.



Once again, volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps made an important contribution. At the start of spring, Lena from Serbia, Lucie from France, and Anastasis from Cyprus joined us. They spent several months with us helping with field bird surveys, monitoring of endangered species, and analysis of collected data.

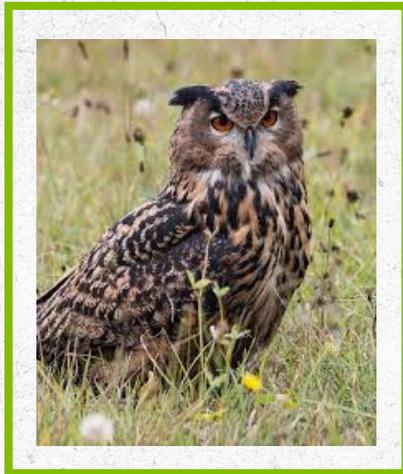


A significant part of their volunteering was dedicated to education and public outreach, and one of the most well-attended events of the year was Anastasis's own. At the Natural History Museum, he shared his passion for dinosaurs with numerous visitors and spoke about their connection to birds.

Through their engagement, motivation, and interest in nature conservation, the volunteers became an important part of Biom's story.



We traditionally began the volunteer year with IWC, and continued with monitoring of Eurasian eagle-owl, whose nesting success we tracked for the first time this year. In Zagreb we carried out a swift count, while our youth group Primar established monitoring of bird collisions with glass surfaces.



We flew into the new year with our members — virally! Not in the digital world, but in person, at our **Čakula sa stručnjacima** (Chat with the Experts) event, where we discussed the West Nile virus and the consequences of epidemics in nature. We sweetened February with a gathering at **Kavica s Biomom** (Coffee with Biom), with good company and a warm welcome for new members who joined our flock. Throughout the year, our members had the opportunity to improve their bird photography skills and take part in a creative workshop making painted Christmas cards.



In May we set off on the traditional members' trip - this time to the island of Krk. We observed birds, learned about the threats faced by griffon vultures, with particular emphasis on the problem of electrocution, and discussed how each of us can contribute to their protection.





We continued the trend of enjoying the sunshine at the beginning of June in Maksimir, where we celebrated Biom's 19th birthday. With the Annual Assembly, we rounded off another chapter and set clear plans for the continuation of our dedicated work in nature conservation.



We are particularly grateful to our donors, who supported us in raising funds for our work on the conservation of birds in urban habitats. The summer campaign 'For a Neighbourhood that Chirps' was very successful, and the valuable support raised will fund a series of free birdwatching tours as well as the continuation of educational and volunteer activities in cities.



TOP 3 moments

Through communication milestones such as a new website, a surge in newsletter subscribers, and improvements to our social media content, we successfully spread messages about nature conservation.

Our numerous educational activities in 2025 were attended by 2,965 participants, which is as many as 1,800 more than the previous year.

The strong public response to our survey on attitudes towards coexistence with crows, along with the publication of guidelines for the conservation of swift nesting cavities, marked our work on urban biodiversity.

In the freshly begun 2026, you can look forward to many new educational programmes, events, trips, and other opportunities for learning and socialising together. All the more so as we also have Biom's 20th birthday celebration ahead of us! We have already begun preparations in earnest and can't wait to share with our community everything we have prepared for it, as well as for nature conservation.

Iva Šoštarić, program manager



COMMUNICATION IN 2025



666 media mentions



16 Appearances on TV and Radio



Most Followed Media Topic:
Griffon Vultures



90.369 users
on the websites
www.biom.hr



147 articles
on the website
www.biom.hr



Most read articles

Things you probably didn't know
about sparrows

An invisible trap for birds

Destroying swallow and house martin
nests is an illegal solution

Animal poisoning is not a myth

The new edition of the
Magazine "Pogled u
divljinu" published in
January 2025



13184



328



1054



210



3146



25



Most popular
post: What is
happening at
the griffon
vultures' home?



THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BIOM ASSOCIATION IN NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

Legend

	observer membership		exchange of knowledge and experience
	full membership		exchange of information
	secretariat		advocacy at EU level, exchange of knowledge and experience
	candidate member		advocacy at national level, exchange of knowledge and experience

BirdLife International

The largest international partnership of non-governmental organizations for the conservation of nature, birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity



BioNet

Regional network of organizations that, through joint action, advocates for nature conservation in the Balkans.



Green forum

Informal network of environmental non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Croatia aimed at influencing the creation and implementation of environmental protection policies and nature conservation



Mediterranean Alliance of Wetlands

An informal international organization aimed at connecting and supporting organizations involved in wetland areas in the Mediterranean



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

International association of governmental and non-governmental organizations for nature conservation, focusing on the preservation of nature and sustainable use of natural resources



National Rural Network

Stakeholder Network in the Agriculture Sector led by the Ministry of Agriculture



Together for Med

Network of non-governmental organizations, international organizations, research centers, private companies, networks, and foundations dedicated to reducing pressures on Mediterranean biodiversity



Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

The network of non-governmental organizations and electricity transmission system operators from across Europe working on the energy transition



Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL)

A national civil society organization active in the field of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid



Croatian Youth Network

Alliance of 77 youth organizations across the territory of the Republic of Croatia.





ADVOCACY

In 2025, significant changes took place in Biom's advocacy work. Thanks to the **Catalyst of Change** project, the role of Policy and Advocacy Officer was introduced for the first time and filled in March. This expanded the advocacy capacity of both the organization and Zeleni forum, our network of environmental organizations in Croatia, as the new expert also took on the role of leading the Secretariat and coordinating the network. As a result, last year the electoral Assembly of Green Forum (Zeleni forum) was successfully organized and held in Knin, with a record 16 member organizations from across Croatia in attendance. The Assembly adopted Zeleni forum's new advocacy plan for 2026, and the successes of the previous year were also celebrated.



As the energy transition in Croatia is gaining momentum, a working group on energy was launched for the first time within Green forum, and five internal workshops were held, serving as the foundation for drafting a joint position paper intended to guide further advocacy work. Throughout the year, Green forum members provided support to numerous civic initiatives in their fight against projects that could undermine the quality of life of local communities, as well as to one another whenever challenges became too great.

Last year, Biom participated in a meeting with the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment, where we had the opportunity to discuss current developments in the nature and environmental protection sector. At a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders, we discussed the pressures experienced by environmental defenders in Croatia.



One of our greatest achievements of the past year was the establishment of quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, attended by Minister Marija Vučković and the directors of the Ministry's departments. On these occasions, together with other representatives of Green forum, we raised the most important issues in the nature and environmental protection sector and collectively discussed solutions. As the part of Green forum, we participated as civil society representatives in numerous working groups and committees of state bodies, contributing to the development of higher-quality regulations. We are particularly pleased that through our partnership with BirdLife, we secured a project that gives us an opportunity to systematically monitor the development of the National Nature Restoration Plan.



BUSINESS SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

While the previous year was marked by a new model of working with the business sector through the development of processes and criteria for selecting potential partnerships and the hiring of a person in a business relations role, 2025 brought some new collaborations, the continuation of existing ones, and the conclusion of certain others. We are pleased to share that 2025 also saw Biom's first corporate member - the company **Just Print**. Businesses are increasingly investing in nature conservation and are open to adapting their ideas to ensure they have the most positive impact possible on nature. In addition to direct collaborations with companies, in 2025 we also partnered with the **Pinwheel platform**, which connects projects with companies interested in donating to specific causes. Through this collaboration, we received a donation for our wetland restoration project in the Vransko jezero Nature Park. This year, collaboration with the business sector provided additional funds to support our efforts to conserve the last population of griffon vultures in Croatia, restore wetland habitats in the Vransko polje Nature Park, educate citizens and tourists about the importance of conserving griffon vultures and how to help them, and raise public awareness about habitat loss affecting numerous species and the ways we can all contribute to species conservation through our own actions. We hope that in 2026 we will put our plans into action to reduce the negative impact of certain companies on biodiversity, and that they will integrate practices into their work that contribute to species conservation.

As we structure our approach to the private sector, our visibility is increasing, and we are receiving more inquiries from concerned members on the topic. Recognizing the need to more clearly communicate our motivations for collaborating with the business sector, our ways of working together, and the goals we aim to achieve, in 2026 we plan to hold a talk for our members specifically on the topic of Biom's collaboration with the business sector and the models of collaboration we implement.



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Behind Biom's many visible successes lies the dedicated work of thirty-one employees from various professions, skills, and backgrounds, united by a shared passion for nature conservation. As Biom organically grew and evolved over the years from a group of young experts into a professional organization employing specialists who want to build careers in nature conservation, the approach to nurturing its growth and development also had to become more planned and deliberate. In 2025, we invested a great deal of time and effort into thinking about how to make our work more impactful and our employees happier. Staff from Zagreb and Sinj had more opportunities to meet and plan together. Everyone came together at the annual planning session, where alongside planning activities for 2026, we dedicated part of the day to team building and fun. Throughout the year, teams went on off-site retreats to gain the focus and time needed for all the discussions and ideas that tend to slip away during everyday office work, and to strengthen team spirit and connect with new team members. This year, we defined Biom's values, ones we have long been living by, which help us nurture an organizational culture that supports Biom's programmatic work. We put into words what we had long known deep down: **that passion for nature conservation is the foundation of everything we do, that we are courageous in standing up for what we believe in, and that we encourage one another to give our best, develop our talents, and expand our knowledge.**



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



BOARD MEMBERS



EMPLOYEES



VOLUNTEERS



MEMBERS

REVENUE

136.798 €
SERVICES

4.715 €
MEMBERSHIP FEES

11.492.570 €
DONATIONS

30.024 €
OTHER SOURCES

1.664.107 €

EXPENSES

836.527 €
EMPLOYEES

437.187 €
MATERIAL EXPENSES

207.329 €
DONATIONS TO PARTNERS

42.950 €
DEPRECIATION AND OTHER

1.523.993 €



1814 FIELD DAYS



28 PROJECTS



21 SERVICES

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Gro Harlem Brundtland



LIST OF EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Management Board

- izv. prof. dr. sc. Toni Safner, dipl. ing. agr., predsjednik
- Joško Gamberožić, dizajner viz. kom., dopredsjednik
- dr. sc. Silvija Kipson, dipl. ing. biol.
- izv. prof. dr. sc. Duje Lisičić, prof. biol. i kem.
- doc. dr. sc. Tvrtko Dražina, dipl. ing. biol.
- Ivana Selanec, mag. oecol. et prot. nat., izvršna direktorica, članica po službenoj dužnosti, bez prava glasa

Ethics Committee

- Duje Lisičić, prof. biol. i kem.
- Iva Mihalić, mag. biol., predstavnik zaposlenika
- Vanja Novosel

Employees of the Zagreb Office (in alphabetical order)

Bijelić Marija, Bogdanić Sanja, Cerovec Valerija, Čupić Iva, Dender Dubravko, Engelen Dries, Hudina Tomislav, Ivanko Martina, Jackson James, *Kapelj Sven*, Klarin Ana, Lukić Jelena, Martinko Ivanov Marija, Mihalić Iva, Nola Đina, Počanić Vovk Paula, *Rajić Lora*, Ribić Ivana, Slocinski Boleslaw, Spevec Dominik, Starčević Morana, Starčević Tanja, Škunca Luka, Šikić Goran, Šoštarić Iva, Vodopija Matija

Employees of the Sinj Office (in alphabetical order)

Budinski Ivan, Budimir Zdravko, Glavinić Melani, Kodžoman Ante, Selanec Ivana, Sotinac Tomislav

* **New employees in 2025**

* **Employees who decided to continue their career elsewhere in 2025**



LIST OF FUNDERS, CO-FUNDERS, AND DONORS IN 2025

Your faith in our projects and the financial support you have provided have enabled us to do what we love for the benefit of both people and nature. Encouraged and guided by your recognition, you have given us the momentum for a smoother flight this year. We wish to express our gratitude for your trust and contribution.





ARE YOU A NATURE LOVER AND DO YOU FIND OUR WORK INSPIRING?

Be part of the change
and join us!

Be our member!

You can choose your membership type (regular, reduced, student, or family), and upon joining, you'll receive a membership package that includes a membership card, the latest issue of the "Pogled u divljinu" magazine, a 15% discount on purchases from our webshop, and this year's member badge. You can receive your card and magazine in either digital or printed format.

> [JOIN NOW](#)

Volunteer!

You can donate your free time to contribute to nature in various ways. You can participate in citizen science actions we organize to collect bird data or simply record your observations in nature through the Naturalist app. Join us for one of our actions or volunteer camps where, through active contribution to protecting local habitats, you will gain extensive knowledge about the wildlife inhabiting them.

> [VOLUNTEER](#)

Learn with Biom

Knowledge is most valuable when shared, so education is one of the core areas of our work! We want to share our experience, expertise, love for nature, and passion for its preservation with you. Join us in one of the many educational activities we organize to introduce nature to you from a new perspective!

> [DONATE](#)

Donate and give back to nature!

Your donation helps us protect birds and other species and their habitats, enables the implementation of regular and new conservation activities, and supports independent, strong, and vocal advocacy for the public interest. By building a larger community of nature enthusiasts, we become stronger and more vocal in nature conservation! Donate and support us in protecting birds and nature because we are all part of nature!

> [LEARN](#)

Bird of the Year 2025
Red-backed Shrike
Lat. Lanius collurio



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association

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