



27th November 2009

The Eurasian Spoonbill or European Spoonbill or simply Spoonbill, in the wild, can be described as being a scarce and very irregular passage migrant to the Maltese islands. However the species has an extremely large range throughout most of Europe, with a very large population size, and even though its trend is not known, the population is not believed to be decreasing. For these reasons the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has evaluated the species as of Least Concern.

Notwithstanding the above, the Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) strongly condemns any criminal act that any person may commit when he/she illegally takes a single specimen of this, or similar protected species from the wild by any means, let alone cowardly and madly shoot an escapee of an African Spoonbill that would have been captive bred with devoted and dedicated passion, and at no small expense, as unfortunately occurred last Wednesday in the Salini whereabouts.

The person, who has been apprehended by the police, is not a paid up member of the FKNK.

Lino Farrugia

Secretary - FKNK