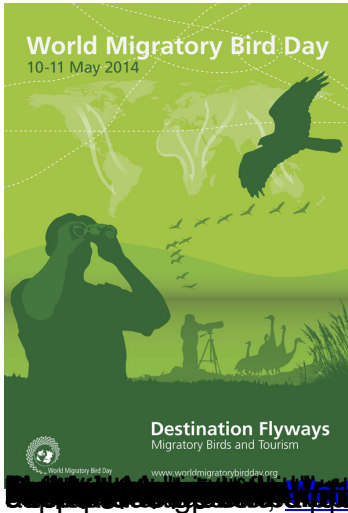




11 May 2014 – Migratory birds such as swallows, turtle doves, quails and geese face several life-threatening perils during their journey from the cold North to warmer climates – and back. Delayed spring seasons, deserts and bright city lights all threaten their arrival, but one danger stands out as especially hazardous: humans.

As the birds traverse the continent and head to the warmer climate of the Mediterranean, it is a journey from which [millions will never return](#). Already in precedent years, landing in Egypt has been a risky business as Egyptians have caught migratory birds for subsistence for generations. In recent years, however, the intensity of the trapping and shooting has escalated to unprecedented levels.

Those who have to venture further South encounter another death trap: the Sahara, and below it, the Sahel which stretches out 400 km wide – and increasing. Once past the desert, Nigeria is only one example of the looming dangers, as locals around Ebok-Boje hunt swallows for food at the resting spots for swallows. It is estimated that around 200 000 swallows die each year as a result of the hunting.



[World Migratory Bird Day](#)