

**Research Article**

## **Illegal wild bird trade, and related bird movements, between Sub-Saharan Africa and the North Africa**

**Mohamed Nadjib Benzohra<sup>1\*</sup>, Sahnoon Felah<sup>2</sup>, Mounia Baha<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Key Laboratory of AnimalEcobiology, ENS Kouba, 16308 Vieux Kouba, Alger, Algeria.*

<sup>2</sup> *Key Laboratory of Research on Biological Systems and Geomatics Laboratory, University of Mascara, Mascara, 29000, Algeria*

*\*Corresponding Author's E-mail: nadjib-22@hotmail.com*

(Received: February 06, 2023; Revised: March 07, 2025; Accepted: March 11, 2025)

### **ABSTRACT**

Illegal wild bird trade significantly impacts biodiversity, with street markets and virtual online marketplaces serving as major trade hotspots. Due to its illegal character, it is impossible to estimate how many individuals and how much money are handled. Transporting animals through illegal trade poses health risks to humans and livestock, as these animals do not undergo quarantine. We use the example of North Africa, the southern region of Algeria and the markets at the northern borders of Mali and Niger, a route known for illegal wildbirds trade. We present information on illegal trade practices in wild birds and new methods of marketing and transport, identifying the species and telling us which species are preferred and why? We observed 12 species on sale, a total of 8011 wild birds in four years and more than 21,262 purchase requests in online platforms. A large purchase request was on *Psittacus erithacus*, *Serinus mozambicus* and *Crithagra leucopygia*. The investigation involved indicates that the illegal trade in wild birds is important in the North African markets, be in the physical market or in online platforms. Both platforms must be taken into account in the control of these markets.

**Keywords:** Markets, illegal, online platforms, Mali, Niger.

