

Jaén 3rd June 2019

To whom it may concern:

News about possible bird slaughtering in Spanish olive groves during harvesting have recently busted out in the German media. It must be noted that this problem affects exclusively those so-called super-intensive olive groves (also known as hedgerow olive groves because of their characteristic linear distribution and which represent less than 4% of the total surface devoted to Olive cultivation in Spain). This is the plantation system that can be mechanically harvested using riding machines that could affect roosting birds, and it has nothing to do with the so-called traditional plantation system present at Castillo de Canena estate "Cortijo Guadiana", which is harvested with conventional methods.

Furthermore, SEO/BirdLife, the Spanish Ornithological Society, BirdLife partner in Spain and working since 1954 for birds and biodiversity conservation, signed in 2015, a land stewardship agreement with Castillo de Canena in order to preserve and promote biodiversity within its estate. Additionally Cortijo Guadiana estate is one of the demonstrative olive groves working in the [LIFE Project Olivares Vivos](http://www.olivaresvivos.com)¹. According to both, this agreement and the LIFE Project, our organisation has already implemented, among other actions, the installation of dozens of nest-boxes for birds and bats; a hacking project for barn owl population reinforcement; seeding of cereal and other seeding plants for birds foraging; setting up biodiversity "islands" with flowering plants for pollinators and bees refuges; construction of floating islands for waders and wildfowl nesting; creation of ponds for amphibians and invertebrates; etc. All these actions, as well as others in due course like the guide to the birds of Cortijo Guadiana (where more than 100 species have been recorded, so far), show the implication and concern of the Company with Nature promotion and a bird-friendly olive oil production.

Yours Faithfully,



José Eugenio Gutiérrez Ureña
Coordinator of LIFE Project "Olivares Vivos" and
Delegate of SEO/BirdLife in Andalusia

¹ www.olivaresvivos.com