

AVAYEBOOM BIRD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES

**PREPARED BY:  
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM**



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# A WORD FROM THE CEO

Reflecting on the past year, I am immensely proud of the remarkable progress and accomplishments of the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society in 2022. Despite the challenges we faced, our dedicated team and volunteers worked tirelessly to advance bird conservation efforts across Iran. From expanding birdwatching initiatives to conducting crucial bird censuses, our projects have spanned various regions, from the wetlands of Hormozgan to the educational programs in Esfahan.

In 2022, we undertook significant projects, such as the comprehensive census of waterbirds in Hormozgan and the development of the biodiversity website for Gavkhouni International Wetland. These initiatives have provided valuable data and insights, essential for the preservation and management of these vital ecosystems. Additionally, our work in resolving conflicts between beekeepers and bee-eaters and our engagement in rehabilitation efforts have been instrumental in our conservation strategy. One of our notable achievements was the establishment of the AvayeBoom Youth Team, which has empowered the next generation of bird enthusiasts to take active roles in conservation. Through workshops, webinars, and community engagement, we have raised awareness and inspired action towards protecting Iran's diverse avian species.

Despite the economic pressures and resource limitations, our commitment to bird conservation remains unwavering. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, and volunteers who have made these accomplishments possible. Together, we will continue to strive for a future where Iran's birds and their habitats are cherished and protected.

**IMAN EBRAHIMI**

CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iman Ebrahimi', is written over the printed name and title.



# An Overview to AvayeBoom

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, established in 2015, is the only bird conservation organization in central Iran. Our efforts focus on protecting Iran's diverse avian species and their natural habitats through scientific research, conservation projects, and public education. We implement various initiatives, from rescuing injured birds to conducting extensive field research across multiple provinces.

Our dedicated team of experts, volunteers, and supporters work in collaboration with local and international organizations and government agencies to achieve our conservation goals. We are committed to raising public awareness, engaging communities, and advocating for policies that support bird protection and habitat conservation.



## Vision

A Middle Eastern country where bird diversity and populations are sustainable and minimally impacted by human presence.

## Mission

To protect birds and their habitats in Iran, ensuring peaceful and sustainable coexistence between humans and birds.



# MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND THE EFFORTS



**IMAN EBRAHIMI**

CEO & Co-founder



**FATEME KAZEMI**

Chief Operating  
Officer



**MOHAMAD ALI  
AGHAEBRAHIMI**

Rehabilitation  
Manager



**AMIN SEIFI**

Public Relations  
Manager



**MINA MEMAR**

Administrative  
Assistant



**MOHSEN KHAVARI**

Social Media  
Admin



**SAMANE  
MOHAMADI**

Training  
Coordinator



**MOHAMAD  
TAVAKOLI**

Operations  
Assistant

# Promoting Birdwatching in Arjan International Wetland

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Mirase Parishan Association and the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society. This agreement is part of the ecosystem-based participatory management project in the Arjan Wetland, executed by Mirase Parishan in collaboration with SGP/UNDP. Under this agreement, AvayeBoom committed to conducting field studies to identify and introduce key bird species in the Arjan area. AvayeBoom experts organized educational workshops, collected information from the local community, and reviewed previous research.

They produced 15 infographics showcasing the bird species of the Arjan plain, aiming to raise public awareness about the region's bird biodiversity and the need for enhanced conservation efforts.

In the next phase, AvayeBoom will conduct a detailed examination of the Arjan plain's wildlife to select a flagship species using the information gathered, aiming to improve the area's conservation status and habitat protection.





# Winter Waterbird Census in Hormozgan Province

One of AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society's significant projects this year was conducting the winter waterbird census in Hormozgan province. This was the first time this task was contracted to AvayeBoom. Previously, the society had conducted several consecutive years of winter bird censuses in the habitats of Esfahan province. The census plays a crucial role in monitoring the population status and species diversity of birds in this region. It aims to collect accurate data on the population, diversity, and status of birds in the area's aquatic habitats. The census is performed annually, providing essential data for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

In the 2022 Hormozgan census, 31 habitats were monitored over approximately one month. AvayeBoom's experts and ornithologists counted and identified birds, assessed habitat conditions, and submitted a comprehensive report of the collected data to the Hormozgan Department of Environment. A total of 102 species with a combined population of 72,904 individuals were identified. Among these, 82 species had smaller populations, totaling 21,978 individuals. The Great Cormorant, Eurasian Curlew, and Bar-tailed Godwit were the most populous species, with 8,655, 7,258, and 3,586 individuals respectively.







## Design and Development of the Gavkhouni Wetland Biodiversity Website

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, under a contract with the Esfahan Department of Environment, commenced the project “Design and Development of the Gavkhouni Wetland Biodiversity Website” in the spring of 2022. In the first phase of this project, existing information on the biodiversity of the Gavkhouni International Wetland was compiled into a comprehensive website. This data includes detailed descriptions of the wetland's animal species and their characteristics.

To carry out the project, a public call was made to collect information and photographs of the Gavkhouni Wetland. All existing studies on its biodiversity were reviewed. AvayeBoom experts categorized the collected data, which includes information on birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish of the wetland, as well as general information about the wetland.

The website now features details on 106 bird species, 12 mammal species, 14 reptile species, and one fish species.

The project aims to create an extensive database on the biodiversity of the Gavkhouni Wetland, facilitating access to data and encouraging researchers to engage in related activities. It also aims to empower the local community and stakeholders by providing them with a resource for necessary information and raising public awareness. The next phase of this project will include adding a comprehensive database of articles and studies related to the Gavkhouni basin and wetland, making the website bilingual, and incorporating a virtual tour.

# Nest Box Installation and Monitoring Project

The AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, in collaboration with the Esfahan Municipality, installed nest boxes in Safoora Mountain Park. These nest boxes were monitored by AvayeBoom experts and volunteers in the spring of 2022. During the monitoring process, the specific details of each nest box were carefully recorded and photographed. A nest box is a man-made enclosure designed to attract birds for nesting purposes. The primary goal of installing these boxes is to bring birds closer to humans, fostering a culture of bird appreciation and conservation.



The installation of bird nests in Safoora Mountain Park in Esfahan was part of the ongoing Nest Box Construction and Installation Project by AvayeBoom. In this initiative, AvayeBoom experts and municipal staff worked together to design, construct, and install the nests in Safoora Mountain Park. This park is a popular mountainous recreational area located in the southern part of Esfahan, frequented by citizens for leisure and hiking.



# Birdwatching Club

The Birdwatching Club at AvayeBoom organizes regular one-day birdwatching events with the help of volunteers and enthusiasts. These events aim to raise public awareness about birds and allow participants to connect with the lives of birds. During these events, participants use binoculars and bird guidebooks, accompanied by one or two bird guides, to watch and learn more about birds. Birdwatching enhances public awareness of the importance of environmental and ecosystem conservation, playing a crucial role in protection efforts. Birdwatchers can also collect valuable data on bird populations and behaviors, which is beneficial for scientific research and environmental monitoring.



Last year, several birdwatching programs were held for various age groups in different parts of the country. The birdwatching tours took place in the following locations:

- Safoora Mountain Park
- Najvan Forest Park
- Bagh Javan Area
- Eastern Esfahan
- Salehieh Wetland in Alborz Province





# Events



## Book Reading Competition on Iran's Migratory Birds

Following the publication of "Bird Migration: Migratory Birds of Iran" by AvayeBoom's CEO, this book was made available to enthusiasts and environmental activists across the country. The Arjan Wildlife Society in Fars Province, in collaboration with Asia and Be'sat high schools in Arjan, organized a book reading competition. Interested students read the book and participated in a quiz based on its content. AvayeBoom appreciated this valuable initiative and awarded prizes to the top participants.

## Instagram Live for National Persian Gulf Day

In celebration of National Persian Gulf Day, we hosted a conversation with Abdolreza Kohpayeh, an environmental activist from Hormozgan Province. The discussion covered the wonders, wildlife, and importance of habitats in the Persian Gulf, along with Kohpayeh's personal experiences and stories.

## Instagram Live for World Migratory Bird Day

On World Migratory Bird Day, we held an Instagram live session featuring Meysam Ghasemi, Deputy Director of the Hormozgan Department of Environment, and Iman Ebrahimi, CEO of AvayeBoom. The discussion addressed the concerns of environmental activists regarding migratory birds, their remarkable journeys, conservation challenges, and potential solutions. This year's theme was "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night."

# News

## Launch of the AvayeBoom Youth Team

Since the early days of AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society, enthusiastic teenagers have participated in our programs, initially known as Young Birdwatchers. As their numbers grew, AvayeBoom officially formed the AvayeBoom Youth Team in the spring of 2022. This team plans and executes educational, operational, and recreational birdwatching activities. For instance, they organized a birdwatching tour in the Najvan Forest Park. Additionally, the Youth Team contributed to content creation for the Gavkhouni Wetland website project.



## Firs Record of the Ultramarine Flycatcher in Hormozgan

On February 12, 2022, AvayeBoom experts photographed an Ultramarine Flycatcher in Hormozgan Province. During the winter waterbird census project, in the presence of the Deputy Director of Natural Environment, the team visited freshwater sources near a dam in southeastern Sirik, close to the village of Pegu, where the bird was spotted. This sighting marks only the second record of the Ultramarine Flycatcher (*Ficedula superciliaris*) in Iran, the first being in 2009 in Semnan Province. The observation was recorded on the eBird website to contribute to data on the species' distribution.







## AvayeBoom's Achievements Presented as One of the Top Eight NGOs of Iran

In celebration of Environment Week, the Department of Environment invited top-performing environmental NGOs to showcase their achievements. AvayeBoom was honored to participate and present its accomplishments from the past year.

During the session attended by Ali Salajegheh, the head of the Department of Environment, and the Deputy of Education and Public Participation, AvayeBoom highlighted projects like “Managing Conflicts Between Beekeepers and Bee-Eaters” and “Securing Power Distribution Lines in Abbas Abad Wildlife Refuge.” The society also requested a revision of the current migratory bird protection model in Iran.

## First Record of Corn Crake in Shidvar Island

During a monitoring mission on Shidvar (Maru) Island in Hormozgan Province on June 5, 2022, AvayeBoom experts and Hormozgan Department of Environment staff discovered a Corn Crake carcass. The carcass was removed for further examination and confirmed the species identification before disposal. This is the first recorded sighting of Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) in Hormozgan Province, now added to the province's species list and documented on eBird. The Corn Crake, which breeds in northern latitudes and migrates to Africa for wintering, highlights Shidvar Island's importance as a crucial habitat for migratory birds and provides insights into the species' migration route and timing.





# Rescue and Rehabilitation

In 2022, the AvayeBoom Bird Conservation Society directly received 25 injured birds for treatment. Of these, 15 birds were rehabilitated and successfully released back into the wild, while the others, due to the severity of their injuries, could not be returned to nature. Additionally, AvayeBoom indirectly played a role in the treatment and release of over 40 birds. These birds were found and, with the coordination of AvayeBoom, were transported to the nearest veterinary clinic by volunteers. Volunteers were also provided with the necessary training to care for these birds. One of the most significant birds received last year was a Cinereous Vulture found in the Varzaneh region. Radiographs revealed joint inflammation, and despite 10 months of treatment, efforts to release it back into the wild were unsuccessful. For the first time, AvayeBoom decided to transfer the injured bird to a zoo and, in exchange, took a bird of the same species from the zoo to be rehabilitated and released back into nature.



**Below is the list of birds received in 2022:**

Species	Received	Released
Common Kestrel	12	8
Golden Eagle	1	1
Long-legged Buzzard	3	2
Sparrowhawk	1	0
Little Owl	1	0
Scops Owl	1	0
Cinereous Vulture	1	0
Chukar Partridge	2	2
Common Swift	3	2
Total	25	15

# Education and Training

## Children's Workshop on Birds and Wetlands

In celebration of World Wetlands Day, AvayeBoom conducted an educational workshop for children. This workshop, featuring games and storytelling by AvayeBoom facilitators, aimed to introduce children to birds and wetlands. The children learned about different bird species, the significance of wetlands, and their role in the ecosystem. Additionally, the workshop highlighted the importance of the Gavkhouni International Wetland located in Esfahan. These activities encourage responsible behavior and environmental protection among children.



## Birdwatching and Bird Education Workshop at Seraj Cultural Center

Continuing its collaboration with cultural centers in Esfahan, AvayeBoom held a workshop on birdwatching for children at the Seraj Cultural Center. Prior to the workshop, bird photographs taken by AvayeBoom photographers were displayed for a week to spark interest. The workshop, targeting children aged 8 to 13, covered topics such as bird evolution, characteristics, attracting birds, and birdwatching essentials. The practical session took place in the Esfahan Youth Garden, where children learned to use binoculars and observed birds in their natural habitat.







## Field Workshop on Bird Behavior in Nature

AvayeBoom held its first field workshop on bird behavior in June 2022 at the Gandoman and Choghakhor Wetlands in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. Led by Iman Ebrahimi, CEO of AvayeBoom, participants observed birds in their natural habitats over two days, learning about various behaviors such as feeding, mating, nesting, chick protection, and territoriality. These field workshops enhance awareness and education on bird conservation, providing practical experience and fostering active participation in conservation efforts.

## Webinar on Birdwatching in Ardestan

Last year, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Adolescents in Ardestan, AvayeBoom conducted an educational webinar on birdwatching during Environment Week. Participants aged 9 to 18 were introduced to bird behavior, anatomy, identification keys, birdwatching principles, and attracting birds. This initiative aimed to raise public awareness about birds and set the stage for future practical and advanced training programs.







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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