

RESEARCH

Boars on the Loose

In Haifa, wild boars have become an unofficial symbol of the city, but they pose significant challenges for local agriculture. Despite extensive hunting efforts to control their numbers, the wild boar population in Israel continues to grow annually. A [new study](#), led by Prof. Dan Malkinson, suggests that hunting may not only fail to reduce their numbers but could actually increase them. This is due to hunting pressure affecting the hormonal systems of sows, leading to earlier fertility. As a result, the wild boar problem persists, raising concerns for both the environment and agricultural practices.

AI and Other Birds

Dr. Inbal Schekler, along with Prof. Nir Sapir and Prof. Ilan Shimshoni, received a grant from the Division of Innovation and Sustainability for groundbreaking [research utilizing Artificial Intelligence](#) in waterbird studies. The research team integrates expert knowledge on the nesting preferences of various species and data on the physical size of individual birds.



Sculpting the Landscape, project by Stav Paulman, Department of Photography, 2022.

Birds as Natural Pest Controllers in the Wild

Dr. Muki Nagari and Dr. Motti Charter from the Shamir Research Institute and the University of Haifa [conducted an experiment](#) in Golan Heights, where they fed predatory birds insect larvae. They discovered how maintaining ecosystem services can reduce the use of pesticides.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

President of ISBCB

Prof. Sagi Snir has been elected President of the [Israeli Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology](#). The main goals of the ISBCB are to promote research and

education in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in Israel, facilitate connections between academic institutions, government agencies, and research institutes, and foster collaboration with related societies worldwide.

National Trail advancing

The National Trails Conference, a unique initiative by the Mediterranean Trails Research Center at the university, led by Prof. Noga Collins-Kreiner, opened on the summit of Tel Tananim, located on the coast of Jisr Az-Zarqa. [The event](#) marked the inauguration of the fifth anchor of the Sea Trail. This anchor is one of approximately 50 planned along the route of the Sea Trail in the coming years.

Once Lost, Now Found

Two lost Egyptian Vultures IB9 and IB3, whose connection was lost while in the Yemen area



Prof. Noga Collins-Kreiner, the inauguration of the fifth anchor of the Sea Trail (Credit: Hila Gur, Israel Sea Trail Facebook page).

in 2021, arrived at the Carmel Nature Reserve. They [were identified](#) by volunteers watching the YouTube channel ‘Birds Online - Charter Group’, led by Dr. Motti Charter.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

This is My Earth

The [TiMES organization](#), led by Prof. Uri Shanas, promotes a unique curriculum that brings together students from Israel, the USA, and Rwanda for joint lessons on sustainability and the environment. Students from G.S. Dihiro School in Rwanda and Rogozin School in Kiryat Ata meet every week or two to learn about cultures, geography, history, and action methods for environmental conservation through the activities of TiME.

Human, Nature, Text

An intensive, unique, and collaborative course, taught by Dr. Einat Davidi and Prof. Dror Burstein, open for students from the Hebrew University and the University of Haifa. The course focuses on reading and writing as a space for engagement and dialogue with nature. In recent decades, a new trend has emerged in literary studies that explores the relationships between literature and the environment. This diverse and interdisciplinary approach emphasizes reading literary works within environmental contexts.

OPERATIONS

Green Campus Project

The [goal of the project](#) introduced by Dean of Students and conducted in collaboration with researchers from the Climate and Sustainability Center at the university, is to raise awareness among children and youth about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability issues. As part of the project, a select group of students will receive relevant training from sustainability researchers, translate the content into engaging and educational activities for elementary schools, and conduct experiential workshops in schools in Haifa and the surrounding area to promote these objectives.

Between Carmel and Sea

A seminar and opening of [the exhibition](#) ‘Between Carmel and Sea – The Nature Room Collection of Shimon Engres from Kibbutz Ma’ayan Zvi’ took place at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, University of Haifa. The event featured a series of lectures on the history of the collection, bird species, and 50 years of birdwatching in Israel.

Renovation of the Sports Center

Renovation of Basketball Hall at the university’s sports center has been completed. As part of the renovation, the wooden floor was refurbished and repainted, to the enjoyment of students and faculty and the public.