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## News Brief

Sivan 4, 5769 / May 27, '09

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## Birds Replacing Pesticides in Israel

Reported: 19:34 PM - May/20/09

(IsraelNN.com) As part of a push to reduce toxic chemical pesticide use, Israel is turning to rodent hunting birds in a new government funded program. Farmers, shunning pesticides, have begun installing nest boxes to encourage natural pest hunting birds such as owls and kestrels to be active in their fields. "Kestrels hunt during the day and barn owls at night. This constant 24-hour threat of predation has caused changes in the pests' behavior, resulting in less crop damage," said Motti Charter, a researcher from Tel Aviv University and team leader of the Global Owl Project in Israel.

Hundreds of birds of prey, including many endangered species, have been killed in Israel by eating rodents containing poisonous "rodenticides" sprayed on to crop fields, according to the charity BirdLife International. By replacing the toxins with bird population, scientists and farmers are hoping to reverse the trend. Jordanian and Palestinian Authority scientists and conservation charities have joined the program.

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- Fiery Debate in Knesset over Budget**  
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- MDA to Reveal Control Center as Part of Drill**  
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- Arabs Stone Bus Near Karmeit Tzur**  
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- 'Jewish State' Law Proposal Passes Knesset Reading**  
 May-27-09 01:56 PM
- Arab Tries to Stab Guard in Ma'ale Adumim**  
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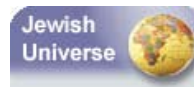
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