

ANNUAL SURVEY

Raptor Rescue has conducted a survey each year since 1990 to collate details of the birds treated by our rehabilitators throughout the UK, and all our rehabilitators are asked to maintain detailed records of the casualties they handle. These details are compiled into a year-on-year report recording

- the number of each species treated
- the age of the bird, i.e. whether it is dependent or independent
- the sex of the bird where possible (It is not always possible to tell with young immature birds)
- the nature of the injury or illness
- treatment required and given
- the outcome.

The findings of each year's report are published annually in the **Raptor Rescue** Newsletter and on our web site, along with observations and comments on any trends, which may become apparent.

Typically in a year **Raptor Rescue** rehabilitators handle between 400 - 500 wild bird of prey casualties including: Red Kite, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Hobby, Peregrine, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl. Goshawk, Hen Harrier, Honey Buzzard and Osprey have also been in care at some time in the past.

Of the above some (20%) will die from their injuries; (25%) will be humanely put to sleep due to the severity of their injuries; (5%) will be still receiving treatment and care; and (50%) will be released back to the wild.

With the introduction of the **Raptor Rescue** Euthanasia Policy, in 1993, the percentage numbers of birds retained in captivity dropped. This means that only wild birds, which will have a 'good quality' of life, will be kept in captivity and generally are used in breeding programmes.

Raptor Rescue rehabilitators are also called upon to take in captive bred birds of prey that have either been lost or escaped from their owners, and some of these birds require medical and/or supportive treatment. However most of these birds are eventually returned to their owners through the various lost and found registers. This is of course more difficult now since most of the more commonly kept species were removed from the Schedule 4 list.

The annual survey results provide important data to assess the success of rehabilitation programmes and treatment regimes, and can also be compared with other data relating to birds of prey, e.g. the British Trust for Ornithology bird ringing statistics.

Survey Forms

The **Raptor Rescue** annual survey form is included elsewhere in this handbook and an electronic copy can be downloaded from our web site.

Rehabilitators Annual Survey Codes

Species

The common name for the species of bird, including any ring or I.D. number and if captive bred.

Date received

Date bird was brought in and include where the bird came from, if appropriate. V=veterinarian, P=police, RA=RSPCA, SA=Scottish SPCA, RB=RSPB, BX=Blue Cross OR=other rehabilitator, O=owner

Age

I= independent, no longer reliant on parents D= dependant, too young on arrival to be released.

Sex

M= male, F= female, U= unknown

Injury - include sub divisions where possible. See list below

1= natural causes; 2= unnatural causes; 3= RTA; 4= abandoned; 5= trapped; 6= caused by domestic pet; 7= poison; 8= other

Treatment

Stabilisation (no vet required); Minor (injections, simple fracture or euthanasia); Major (operation by vet); Temp Accom (before rehoming); also record the number of days a bird is in care.

Final Outcome

Released, Euthanased, Died, Retained, Passed to other rehab (named), Rehomed with (name) or Returned to owner (name). Also record the date.