

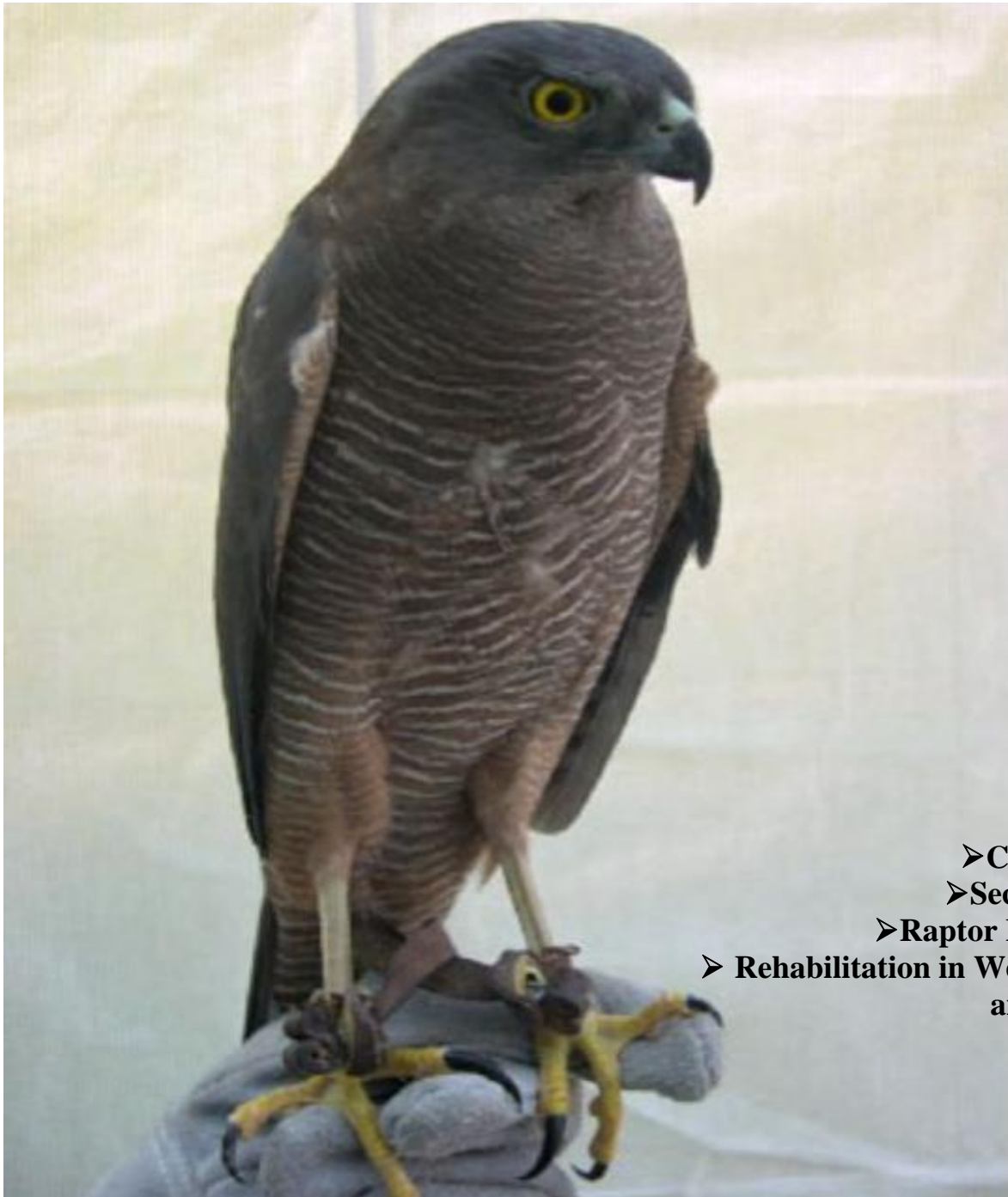
The UK's leading specialist Bird of Prey rehabilitation organisation.



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

An organisation dedicated to ensure that
all sick or injured birds of prey are
cared for by qualified persons and that
whenever possible they are released back
into the wild.



In this issue:

- Chairman's Chat
- Secretaries Report
- Raptor Rescue Seminar
- Rehabilitation in Western Australia
and South Africa
- Wind Farms
- and lots more

PLEASE NOTE; THIS IS NOT A 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE, IF YOUR CALL IS NOT ANSWERED AN ANSWER
PHONE IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU. ALL CALLS ARE
CHARGED AT THE NORMAL RATE.

National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609 –

Online www.raptorrescue.org.uk

Chairman's Chat

I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year, and hope 2006 brings you all that you wish for.

September seems so far away now, but it was a busy month for myself and the Trustee's. The Midland Game Fair was a busy and eventful weekend. Raptor Rescue did a presentation in the falconry arena at the same time Charlotte Hill allowed my daughter Vicky to fly her Asian Wood Owl.

The following weekend the rehabilitation Seminar took place at Reaseheath College, Nantwich. It was an excellent day. The speakers were excellent, the venue and food provided were excellent. All in all a very special day, well worth all the hard work in organising speakers and venue over 12 months by Jane Hemingway.

The AGM went very smoothly. It was my first AGM as chairman and I am glad to say it was a successful one. Our speaker was Pollyanna Pickering (one of our patrons) assisted by her daughter Anna Louise, she gave a very interesting and informative presentation. It was really nice to see familiar faces and good to see new faces as well. I would like to welcome on board Chris Shaw-Thomson, Phil Poole and Malcolm Robbins (who has already done a year as co-opted Trustee) they were voted onto the board of Trustees for a period of two years.

At our meeting in January Mick Cunningham made his decision to retire from the board of trustee's. He felt that new blood would be good for the charity. He made it quite clear though that he would be there in the background to help in any way he can, we just need to call him. I would just like to thank Mick for all his work over the years and wish him well in his new hobby, sword fencing. If he puts in half the dedication he put into Raptor Rescue then I feel we will be watching him fence for Britain! I should also like to welcome John Spibey who has agreed to be co-opted onto the board of Trustee's until the next AGM, to cover the place left by Mick.

The bird survey this year has been a bit of a disappointment to me. Less than half of the forms sent out have been returned. We need these returns to assess each year how effective Raptor Rescue has been nationwide. We can only improve if we can find out our failures and weaknesses; this is where the survey helps.

Well not long until the British Falconry Fair, so hope to see some of the members there.

The Trustees elected to serve and hold office, for the year 2005/06 are:



Dean Hemingway
Chair



Steve Davidson
Vice-chair



Ian Taylor
Secretary



Carol Davidson
Treasurer



Jane Hemingway
Stock Control



Keith Woodhead



Malcolm Robbins



Chris Shaw -Thomson



Phil Poole



John Spibey

Secretaries Report – February 2006 - Update on some points of interest to the members of Raptor Rescue.

It is with regret that I have to announce that Mick Cunningham has decided to stand down as a trustee of the charity. A change in his personal circumstances has made this necessary and we, as fellow members must appreciate this.

Over the past 15 years, that I know of, Mick Cunningham and Raptor Rescue have been very closely linked. Mick was elected as Vice-chairman in 1990 and served with Michael (Mike) Robins as Chairman until Mike stood down in 1995. What a team, and along with the other trustees they contributed a great deal to the organisation and publicity of the charity. Mick and Loraine attended many of the game and falconry fairs in the Midlands and helped enormously to highlight the work we do.

Mick took over as Chairman in 1995 and served in this capacity for 9 years, the longest serving Chairman we have had. During his term as a trustee he introduced the annual survey report, the Approved Rehabilitator Scheme and the well respected 'Guidance Notes and Code of Practice for Raptor Rehabilitators'. The vast majority of this booklet, now in its 3rd edition, was brought together by Mick based on feedback from other rehabilitators as well as his own vast experience.

In addition to all the above he still found time to take in and treat many casualties and at the same time was always willing to give advice over the phone to anyone else. Somehow he found the time to fly his own birds and earn a living! When I took on the role of secretary, I would generally communicate with Mick by e-mail. Many of his replies were written between 2 and 3 in the morning, thank goodness he didn't phone me!

I am sure that many of the members have met Mick at sometime and along with myself wish him all the best for the future.

Trustee: At the last meeting John Spibey agreed to be co-opted to the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy left by Mick Cunningham.

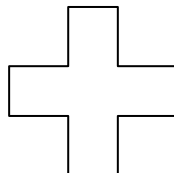
Attendance at meetings: If you would like to attend one of the meetings of trustees then please let me know and I will let you know the date and venue. First come first served as we can only accommodate two members at any one meeting.

AGM 2006: The AGM will be on Sunday October 22nd at Rugeley. More details later.

Contact me with your ideas or questions. My details are on the back page but e-mail is probably the best if you can.

Ian Taylor - e-mail: iw.taylor@ic24.net

Raptor First Aid Supplies



Rehabilitators -do you have sufficient first aid supplies!

If not please contact Jane or Dean Hemingway on **01565 654292** to find out what's available.

Why not collect your supplies from the RR stand at this year's British Falconry & Raptor Fair, Chetwynd Park, Telford – Sunday 30th April & Monday 1st May 06.

Raptor Rescue Seminar

Reaseheath College

24th September 2005

Trustee Jane Hemmingway, who organised and opened the seminar, thanked the 45 people for attending and gave an overview of where Raptor Rescue is today.



Jane introduced the first speaker of the day; vet Richard Jones BVSc MSC of the Birch Health Vetnary Clinic, Tarporlery.

Richard gave an excellent talk on Raptor Medicine and Surgery, with the aid of an excellent selection of slides he talked everyone through the procedure they should follow when a sick or injured bird is brought into the clinic. He explained how difficult it could often be to diagnose a problem in a sick bird without a thorough examination and that just popping a bird a pill or giving it a jab of antibiotics was not the best course of action. He explained their preferred method was to anaesthetise the bird, take a blood sample, carry out a full examination with an endoscope and take a mute sample.

He then went on to talk about the three most common problems affecting birds brought to the clinic, aspergilloses, broken bones i.e. wings and legs and Bumble Foot. With aspergilloses, he explained what to look for, how it is contracted and how to treat if caught early enough. He then went on to show how they repair broken bones in the wing and legs and how to treat bumble foot. At the end of the talk Richard could not emphasise enough that **Prevention is Always the Best Option.**

Jane thanked Richard for an excellent talk and introduced the next speaker Jim Chick (*below*), Chairman of the Hawk Board.

Jim gave an excellent talk on the up and coming Animal Welfare Bill and how it will affect anyone who keeps animals and in particular birds of prey and rehabilitation.

As well as explaining some of the possible problems we could run in too he also explained how the Hawk Board have been involved in the consultation period. How they have managed to get parts of the Bill changed in favour of bird of prey keepers.

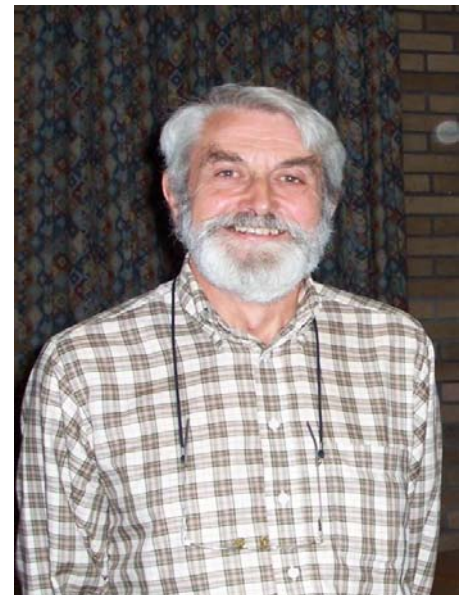


Although the second draft is not due out for some time and no firm date has been given for the introduction of the Bill, The Hawk Board are working for all bird of prey keepers and will continue to be involved with the consultation process for this draft and the forthcoming second draft. If anyone has any issues and would like to discuss them, they are more than welcome to contact him at the Hawk Board.

Jane next introduced Peter Wilkinson (*right*), who gave a talk on Bird Ringing in Britain and Ireland including Rehabbing.

Peter explained the ringing process and training needed to become a ringer and that there are only 2077 ringers in the UK. He then gave some statistics relating to how many birds have been rung in the UK between 1909 and 2003 including the following bird of prey species; Kestrel 56,000, Barn Owl, 44,000, Tawny Owl 35,000 and Golden Eagle 1,100.

Peter then went on to explain ringing and rehabilitation. He explained that rehabilitation ringing is organised into registered projects and that there are only 18 out of the 2077 UK ringers working in these project areas which include Rehab Casualties (11), Oiled and Cleaned (4), Captive reed and Casualties (3).



Research from these recoveries is indicating that re-released rehab birds are not surviving very long, although juveniles last longer than adults. They only ring birds that have a reasonable chance of survival, in 2000 the total number of rehab birds ringed was 2,700 and approx 2000 of those were done by the RSPCA. Up to 2003 the number of recoveries stood at: Kestrel 104, Barn Owl 84, Tawny Owl 79, Buzzard 42, Short-eared Owl 27 and Little Owl 24.

The seminar took a break for lunch and Reaseheath College must be commended for the excellent buffet they put on.

Over lunch attendee's were able to get together and discuss at length some of the points raised by the speakers.



Jane introduced the first speaker after lunch, Tony Cross, Consultant Ornithologist for Red Kites in Wales who talked on the work of the Welsh Kite Trust.

Tony, with the aid of an excellent presentation explained how the red kite went from being one of the commonest birds of prey in the UK to just two pairs in the 1930's in central Wales.

He went on to explain how between 1976 to 2004 the numbers in Wales have increased from about 50 to 450 pairs thanks to the excellent work by the Welsh Kite Trust.

Jane then introduced the final speakers of the day Neil and Juliana Fowler (*below*) the new owners of the IBR.

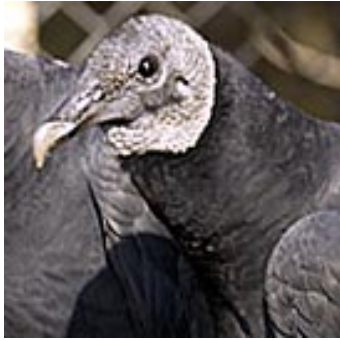
Neil gave a fascinating talk on the day-to-day running of the IBR. He explained that there were some 45,000 rings in circulation, how the IBR works very closely with DEFRA and with Raptor Rescue through Jane and Dean and that most lost birds with IBR rings were recovered within 72 hours of being reported lost and that 97% of birds are returned to their owners. He went on to explain how the IBR is expanding and that this year he and Juliana have covered 35,000 miles doing talks throughout the UK in their quest to raise the IBR's profile.



With the final presentation over Jane thanked all the presenters for attending and making the day highly informative. Everyone thought the day was well worth while and hoped we would run similar events in the future.

RAPTOR NEWS

from the pages of **Cage & Aviary Birds**



Across North America the numbers of Turkey Vultures has doubled between 1980 and 2000 whilst the Black Vulture numbers have risen four-fold. It is thought that humans have encouraged the increase by land clearance. The more land clearing is done the better it is for the vultures. On the down side, there are now calls to control the birds by culling.



Red Kites from Yorkshire were featured in a new TV series screened in December 2005 aimed at encouraging people to get out and discover wildlife for themselves.



And from the Daily Mirror 30th January 2006.

MURDER OF EAGLE OWL

One of the eagle owls featured in the BBC documentary screened last November has been killed.

The female bird, which has raised 23 chicks, was found with shotgun pellets in its chest, ending nine years of breeding in the Yorkshire Dales.

The birds featured in a BBC Documentary last November, but their location had been kept a secret.



Major Tony Crease of a Catterick bird ringing group said: "People are horrified. There will be no breeding this year".



Raptor Rescue Annual

The information below was collated and analysed by the Charity's Chairman Dean Hemingway.

The matrix provides a detailed breakdown of all the species handled by Raptor Rescue Rehabilitators and attempts to put all the casualties into specific categories depending on:- species, age, sex, where received from, injury sustained, treatment given and final outcome.

Unfortunately, due to space constraints we are not able to reproduce all the information here. However, if any member would like to see the full survey results, please contact Dean Hemingway.

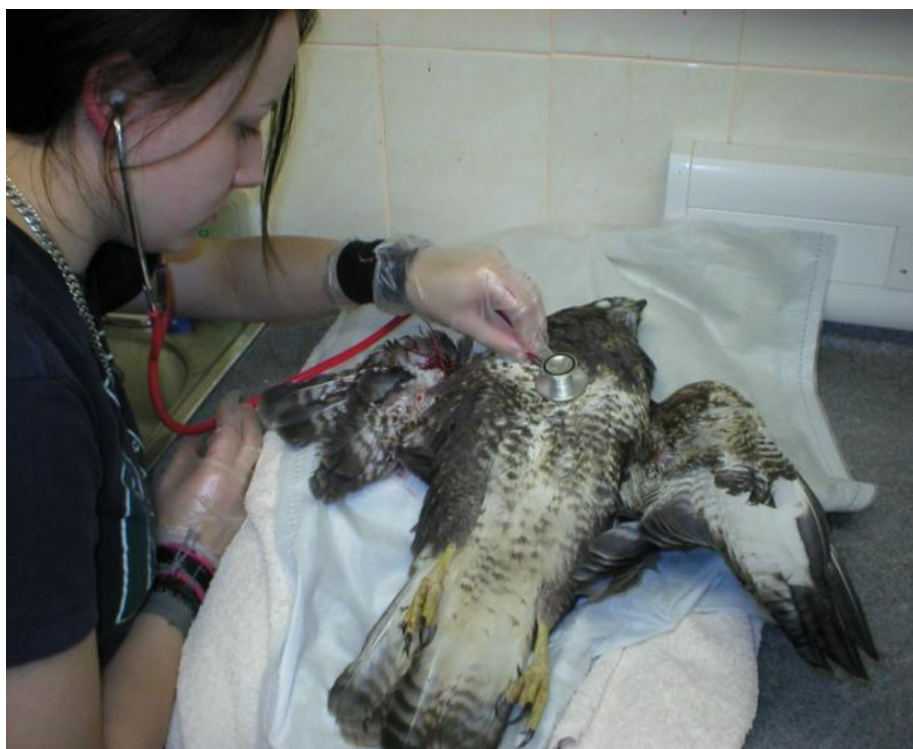
However, we cannot build up an accurate picture of the numbers of birds handled as a total of 80 survey forms were sent out at this survey and just over 50% have been returned. This would account for the downward trend in numbers from 2003/04 to 2004/05.

This information is vital to us to be able to continue to be the UK's leading Raptor Rehabilitating Organisation. All we ask is that rehabbers please take a few minutes each year to complete and return the survey form.

Species	INJURY SUSTAINED									
	Wild	Captive Bred	Natural Causes	Unnatural Injury	RTA	Abandoned	Trapped	Domestic Pet	Poison	Other
Red Kite	65		53	3	3	3		3	3	1
Goshawk	3		2	1			2			
European Sparrowhawk	53	1	11	18	18	4	2			1
Common Buzzard	50	6	17	5	24	1	2			3
Eurasian Kestrel	54	1	23	9	15	1				5
Merlin	1			1						
Hobby	2			2						
Peregrine Falcon	8		3	3	2					
Marsh Harrier	1		1							
Hen Harrier	1									1
Barn Owl	32	18	9	1	14	6	1	1	1	1
Little Owl	19		7		10	2				
Short-eared Owl	3		2		1					
Long-eared Owl	1					1				
Tawny Owl	103		27	10	36	25	3	17		1
European Eagle Owl										
Indian Eagle Owl										
Harris Hawk		1								
Red-tailed Hawk		1						1		
Totals	396	28	155	53	123	43	10	22	4	14

Bird Survey

1st September 2004 to 31st August 2005



Species	OUTCOME					
	Released	Euthanased	Died	Retained	Referred to other Rehabber	Returned to Owner
Red Kite	58		5	3		
Goshawk		2	1			
European Sparrowhawk	20	11	21		2	
Common Buzzard	19	21	9	2	5	
Eurasian Kestrel	29	10	12	4		
Merlin	1					
Hobby		1	1			
Peregrine Falcon	2	5		1		
Marsh Harrier		1				
Hen Harrier	1					
Barn Owl	18	7	6		18	1
Little Owl	9	4	4		2	
Short-eared Owl	2		1			
Long-eared Owl	57	1				
Tawny Owl		18	16	3	8	
European Eagle Owl						
Indian Eagle Owl						
Harris Hawk						1
Red-tailed Hawk				1		
Totals	216	81	76	14	35	2

Society for the Preservation of Raptors (Inc)

Raptor Rehabilitation in Western Australia

Volunteers have been caring for injured wildlife in Western Australia (W.A.) in an organised fashion for well over 20 years. The Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc. (SPR) is the only raptor rehabilitation organisation in the State. The SPR is volunteer run and is 21 years old. It maintains around 10 active rehabilitator members spread across W.A. Each one of these has their own hospital facilities, but share caseload according to the needs of individual raptors. There are also individual raptor carers in the State who are not affiliated with any others.



Because of the size of the State, most wildlife "carers" (rehabilitators) in remote areas do not specialise, and care for any wildlife brought to them as best they can. Fortunately many of them seek advice from raptor specialists. It is also not unusual for an injured or orphaned raptor to be sent 5,000 km or more to reach a specialised raptor rehabilitator. These birds are usually returned for release too. Most often air couriers are used for longer journeys. These are expensive, so shorter journeys are undertaken as car passengers (or sometimes as stowaways in carry-on luggage on mine site charter flights!)

Legalities

Western Australian wildlife carers are regulated through our Department of Conservation And Land Management (CALM). State law specifies that the public may not possess wildlife (flora and fauna, or bits thereof) unless for the purpose of rehabilitation. CALM policy specifies that potential wildlife carers must attend a Basic Wildlife Care Course (three days of lectures). They must receive letters of recommendation from registered carers after a period of mentorship before being added to the register themselves. These requirements are often waived for volunteers in remote areas.



Many carers undertake community education, both to help prevent casualties and to raise funds for their rehabilitation efforts. Non-releasable animals can be kept for this purpose under licence. CALM must approve the applicant's education package and inspect each animal added to the licence to ensure they look healthy. Raptors with slightly drooped wings or other obvious damage are often rejected for this reason (but not always). Some captive bred animals are also obtained from wildlife parks. (They are rarely permitted to release captive bred animals, even when the parents originally came from the wild due to injury).

LEONARDO (or Leo to his friends) is a male captive bred, hand reared Australian Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) from the Eagles Heritage Raptor Wildlife Park in Margaret River.

History

The rehabilitation of raptors has been undertaken in W.A. in an organised fashion for well over 20 years. Falconry was banned here in the early 70's as a result of conservation legislation. It prohibited people from taking animals from the wild. (A small lobby of falconers was unable to persuade legislators to allow them to continue the sport.) However, the legislation did allow for people to have animals in their possession if they had rescued them, and intended to release them again. It was not until the 90's that wildlife carers were required to be registered as CALM volunteers and receive training.

Respect for the professionalism of rehabilitators has grown over the years, and the efficacy of falconry training techniques is now recognised by CALM. A set of guidelines and housing

standards produced by an appointed committee to CALM have now been drafted. A comment period will allow all carers to contribute to the final document, which will be a voluntary code of practice. There seems to be a trend towards tighter control of rehabilitation activities.

Raptor rehabilitators are now required to ask for CALM permission to free fly raptors due to fears of illegal falconry activities. In the past, anything falconry related was frowned upon. There are currently no standards for raptor housing design or size, though these will be included in the code of practice mentioned above. The SPR has standards for our members. The members share information on rehabilitation and mentor those new to raptor rehabilitation. The SPR also runs the raptor section of the Wildlife Care Course.

Miranda a female Brown Goshawk (Accipiter fasciatus) was handed in suffering the effects of secondary poisoning due to pesticides having been used on an animal or bird that she caught. Her life was saved by the carers who looked after her, but the toxins in her body left her partially blind, so she cannot be released.



SPR network for raptor rehab.

Because of the range of facilities needed to rehabilitate raptors of various species, the SPR members often cooperate to rehabilitate an individual bird. Raptors are transferred to appropriate facilities, and returned for release where appropriate. Two members have large flight aviaries suitable for eagles. One is 5 hours drive north of the capital city of Perth, the other 3 1/2 hours south. The southern facilities are run by the coordinator who also manages a large raptor wildlife park. This facility and two smaller ones on the outskirts of Perth have the knowledge of how to train and free fly birds for rehabilitation. Each member has their own hospital and holding facilities, plus smaller flight aviaries for the small common species.

This cooperative arrangement is very successful, though we find that there are never enough flight aviaries or rehabilitators (this seems to be a universal phenomenon, despite continual expansion!) Funding consists of memberships (minimal) and donations from the public. The bulk of our donations are raised at public fairs and events such as the Perth Royal Agricultural Show. These funds are used to help support members in their work. The SPR also applies for grants on behalf of members for equipment.

Short bio: I have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and joined the SPR in 1995. I have been a registered CALM volunteer wildlife carer since 1997, and gained my licence to use raptors in education in 1998. I run Perth Raptor Care centre from my large suburban back yard. I see roughly 60 birds per year. My environmental education business includes school visits with disabled raptors. I am currently a member of the Wildlife Carers Consultation Group to CALM.



Coordinator Philip Pain, the Society's



HILLARY a female Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) was found in the Perth suburb of Hillarys with a badly broken wing. While the bone healed perfectly, damage to the connective tissues in her shoulder has left her unable to fly at the kinds of speed and distance required to survive in the ...



Arendhoogte Guest Lodge - Bird of Prey Centre and Wildlife Rescue Centre

Arendhoogte Guest Lodge, Bird of Prey Centre and Wildlife Rescue Centre is situated in flourishing country town of Riversdale, Western Cape South Africa, halfway between Cape Town and Plettenberg Bay. It is in the heart of the Langeberg Eden country route. The district boasts a wide variety of indigenous flora and fauna, ideal for the discerning nature lover. The town lies at the foot of the world renowned sleeping beauty mountain where walks and trails are in abundance. Primarily an agricultural town, Riversdale has much to offer local and international tourists. Riversdale was founded by Sir John Rivers and is steeped in artistic and architectural history.



Arendhoogte Guest Lodge is accredited with superior 3 star status and is graded by the South African Tourist Council. The Automobile Association of South Africa awarded the Guest Lodge a "highly recommended" accommodation status, thereby meeting the comfort requirements of all guests. Linen and fabric used in the decor has been imported from Bali, ornaments from Kenya and art from Zambia.

Arendhoogte offers four luxury suites which are well appointed and which have adjoining patios overlooking the landscape of the Langeberg mountains and the peaceful farm surroundings. Your hosts Vernon and Tony offer a personalised and homely service, providing a restful haven after your holiday activities.

A spacious and tastefully decorated restaurant serves traditional South African

breakfasts. The fully equipped thatched Lapa is available as an ideal conference venue and summer alfresco dining area, where traditional mouth watering South African dishes and fine wines are served.

Renowned for the creation for fun, intimate guest experiences, owners Vernon and Tony have perfected creating a myriad of special moments for their guests, from alfresco lunches or private dinners on your patio, to birthday and wedding function catering, romantic picnics and poolside cocktails.

Bird Of Prey Rehabilitation

Man has persecuted raptors for centuries. This persecution has developed and persisted through a sad misunderstanding into the habits of the predatory birds. Although Southern Africa has many fine protected areas, these sanctuaries are often too small to incorporate the full ranges of the larger eagles. Many eagles must expand their home ranges beyond sanctuary boundaries into privately owned land where their long term survival is dependant upon the attitudes of farmers. The threats to our eagles are many.

- Poisoning through baited carcasses used to combat `problem animals`
- Direct persecution through shooting or gin trapping
- Habitat destruction
- Electrocution on electricity pylons
- Disturbance, especially when breeding
- Drowning in farm reservoirs
- Illegal trade and collection

Most of the eagles rescued or brought to the centre are as a direct result of one or more of the above factors. Those which can be fully rehabilitated are released. Many of the birds brought to the centre however cannot be released as their chances of survival in the wild are slim.



Wind Farms

Raptors are a common site. Buzzards, kestrel and sparrow hawks are often seen around the smallholding, hen harriers populate the flow country and in the mountain areas the Golden Eagle is King.

But now we have new landmarks, all man made, spreading like weeds in a field.

These are the Wind Farms, massive structures spread over many acres that was once open moorland. In fact it would seem that they will spread over the entire country and every hilltop and open place will have sprouted these giants.

The government and those who wish to place these structures on their land will say its good for the environment, as they are a non-polluting method of energy production.



But what of there effects upon the wildlife and in particular the raptor populations.

There have been a number of studies conducted in America and Israel that show the not so beneficial effects of the wind farms on raptors.

As to Caithness the wind farms are new and growing all the time and no comprehensive study has been conducted as to their effects on the local environment.

We are removing the birds by removing the environment in which they live and breed. Studies have shown that there are significant effects up to 600m from the Wind Turbines this shows itself in an reduction or absence of birds close to the Wind Turbine site.

Disturbance from increased human activity i.e. maintenance of roads and other access infrasturure. Few studies are conclusive there is a lack of well-designed studies both before and after construction of the wind farm.

Wind Turbines may be barriers to bird movement by blocking flight paths to and from roosting sites.

The effect of large wind farm installations may be considerable if bird movements are disrupted as a consequence.

Collision Risk and Mortality.

Studies have demonstrated very low collision mortality rates attributable to wind farms. However, this does not mean that badly sited wind farms would not have significant effect especially with migrants, large raptors or other large soaring species, e.g. Altamont Pass in California, USA, and Tarifa in Spain.

In these cases deaths resulting from collision are high, notably of golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), small increases in mortality rates may be significant for populations of some birds, especially large, long-lived species with generally low annual productivity and slow maturity, notably so when already at risk. Several factors influence the risk of collision, such as wind speed, height of the turbines, and number of turbines as do species, age and stage of the bird's annual cycle.

Small turbines have been the focus of most studies, but now larger turbines are being created studies need to be conducted on these. The importance of wind farm location and layout in determining the risk of collision by birds with wind turbines is apparent from studies both onshore and offshore. Thus, site selection is crucial to minimising collision mortality. Alternative locations need to be proposed for the most hazardous wind farms. Assessment of bird collision risk and mortality, arising from collision or electrocution, needs to include both wind turbines and the power lines associated with energy transport from the wind farm.

Direct Loss of Habitat.



Direct loss of habitat, as a result of the construction of wind farms, is a major concern here in Caithness. As the number of Wind Farms and proposed wind farm sites grow the loss of habitat increases with each site built. One could argue that the preferred sites for the birds are also sites ideal for the sighting of Wind Farms.

Other Issues.

Wind turbines as platforms for roosting and nesting is not seen as a significant problem, however a major research project needs to be undertaken in this area.

All wind farm developments that have the potential for damaging effects on wild birds or the wider environment, or in areas where there is uncertainty as to the potential effects,

The Bern convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats highlighted many concerns these concerns need to be addressed and applied to future growth of the Wind Farm industry.

As you can see the subject of Wind Farms is a complex subject with many unanswered questions I try not to pitch my hat into either camp but leave you the reader to draw your own conclusion.

Bob & Jane Renshaw.

TENDER LOVING CARE

It all began when we got a call from one of our local vets explaining they had a bird of prey handed in but were not sure what species it was. So my dad (Dean Hemingway) and I went to have a look at it.

When we got there we went through to the back to examine the bird. It was a Gyr hybrid, it was so beautiful. We took time to examine the bird, it had a wound on its foot and elbow which were obvious, it wasn't until we got home and did a further examination that we found a wound on its side about the size of a ten pence piece very wet.

When we investigated the wound further we found it was infested with maggots. I had a very bad feeling, my heart sank. Dad and I decided to take the bird to our friend and fellow member Ray Jackson at Lower Moss Wood.

We must have been there for an hour and a half sorting the wound out. Ray suggested that we flush the wound with diluted hibescrub, which made the maggots squirm and leave the area, Ray and I got tweezers and removed the maggots there were about thirty.



Ray told me it looked promising because the maggots were large, if they had been small the worry would have been there could have been larger ones deeper in the wound.

We took the bird home and fed her. She was so weak she could not feed herself so we had to cut up the food for her and hand feed her. She was so weak in fact she found it hard to balance and remain upright.

The next morning we took her to our vets. Dave had a close examination and put her on Baytrille (Antibiotic) and Metacam (Pain relief and anti inflammatory).

The final factor was of course lots and lots of tender loving care which I might add came from all the family. I am pleased to inform that she is now strong and has put weight on and looks fantastic.

All's well that ends well.

Vicky Hemingway

Benefits of Membership

Membership of Raptor Rescue is open to anyone with an interest in birds of prey that wishes to support the Charity.

Annual membership fees are divided into three categories:

Junior Members (Under 16) £7.50

Household Membership (One address) £15.00

Wildlife Centre Membership (Raising own funds) £25.00

Application forms are available from our web site.

Our rehabilitator members are entitled to reclaim all legitimate expenses incurred in collecting, transporting, feeding and treating casualties. *

Medical equipment and other items are regularly distributed to our rehabbers at little or no cost. All we ask in return is that reports are submitted for inclusion in the Newsletter and that details of all birds treated are made available for our Annual Surveys.

Subject to certain conditions, financial assistance may also be available from our Central Funds for expenses incurred whilst rehabilitating WILD raptor casualties.

* Details of the conditions covering reimbursement of expenses are available on request.

National Help & Advice Line

0870 241 0609

The aim of the telephone helpline is to provide assistance to anyone who encounters an injured bird of prey. Once the relevant details have been provided, callers can be given basic instructions on how to care for the casualties temporarily, whilst efforts are made to contact local rehabilitators or experienced individuals who can collect the bird and transport it safely to specialised care facilities. When this is not possible, the Charity is often able to provide contacts for veterinary surgeon or other local help.

PLEASE NOTE: The National Help & Advice Line is NOT a 24-hour emergency service. However, an answerphone is available outside of normal operating hours. All calls are charged at the national rate.

This issue published February 2006 Raptor Rescue
Design and Production -Steve Davidson

Pictures

Front Cover – Brown Goshawk – Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc
Raptor Rescue Seminar - Editor
Wind Farms - Bob & Jane Renshaw
Tender Loving Care – Dean Hemingway
All other pictures taken from appropriate Web Sites

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