

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.



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- Festival of Falconry
- October AGM
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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

We attended the first show of the season for Raptor Rescue, which was of course, the British Falconry Fair. Sadly I have to report that there was a fatal accident on the first day, one of the skydivers landed completely wrong. This, of course pulled the general atmosphere of the show to a low ebb. We did not see some of the usual faces at the show this year but hope we will next year.



We also attended the Falconry Festival in July the first time this show has taken place. Thirty-six countries attended and it was fantastic! The team that attended was: myself, Jane, my daughters Katie and Vicky, Katrina Sullivan and last but not least Andy Craven. There was a fantastic social evening on the Saturday night where everyone mixed; different languages did not prove a problem. We have now got a member in Japan and a member in Spain.

I would like to thank Neil and Juliana Fowler for running the helpline; unfortunately they will have to give it up and is going to be passed onto Gentleshaw Bird of Prey Centre. We will keep you up to date with progress as we go along.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Hemingway'.

Dean Hemingway - Chairman

Secretary's Report

Many people first discover Raptor Rescue via the internet. Following the launch of our redesigned web site, email enquiries have been steadily increasing. This is good news for us as it means that we are reaching a wider audience and the work of the Charity is becoming better known. The internet has introduced Raptor Rescue to a world wide audience and the increasing numbers of international enquiries verify this. We have recently received a request for resource material from a Rescue Centre in India and a request for advice on aviary construction from Pittsburg University in USA. We have also received several appeals for rehabilitation advice from abroad, noticeably France, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria highlighting the lack of facilities for Raptors in some of these Countries. At home we sometimes receive emails notifying us of injured Birds of Prey. Generally the Raptor Rescue help line should be used as the first line of contact, as emails are only checked once daily and often late at night. Not the best time to start ringing round for assistance!



As the Charity grows in stature we often find that we are unable to attend all the events to which we are invited. Many of these invitations are for attendance at local fetes, animal welfare days and corporate events run by Garden Centres etc. We would love our members to be more involved with the Charity and are currently compiling a list of volunteers who would be interested in manning a stall on behalf of Raptor Rescue at such events. If you feel you could help, please contact me by phone or email. You don't need an in depth knowledge of Birds of Prey, just an awareness of the aims and work of the Charity. Display material will be provided.

Many people with an interest in Birds of Prey and Raptor Rehabilitation contact Raptor Rescue. Often they have very little experience and don't know where to start. If there are any members out there willing to share their knowledge and experience of birds of prey we would like to hear from you! In fact any views from our members are always welcome, whether it is a letter or article for the newsletter, a comment about the website or indeed any ideas that you may have. Let us know what you want!

Chris Shaw-Thomson

Raptor Rescue Helpline

The Raptor Rescue Helpline has been run by Neil and Juliana Fowler of the IBR since October 2006 but sadly over the past 9 months Juliana has suffered with her health and the IBR are now no longer able to provide this service for us and will relinquish control at the end of September 2007.



Since taking over the running of the Helpline the IBR have done an excellent job in handling all incoming calls and ensuring that wild casualties were taken care of. The Trustess have been kept up-to-date with quarterly reports which will be fed into the annual survey.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Neil and Juliana for all their hard work and wish Juliana all the best for the future.



**GENTLESHAW
WILDLIFE CENTRE**

From the 1st October 2007, the Helpline will transfer to Gentleshaw Bird of Prey Hospital and Wildlife Centre. Gentleshaw are Raptor Rescue approved rehabilitators and we can think of no one better to run this important part of the Charity and we are looking forward to working with them. Gentleshaw was founded by ex-gamekeeper Rob Smith who had a keen interest in wildlife. The hospital was founded after a friend of Rob's brought him an injured tawny owl. After successfully healing and returning the owl to the wild, Rob decided that he would like to help birds of prey on a larger scale.

Rob was soon rescuing birds of prey and his back garden filled up quickly. It was decided to find a larger place to set up a sanctuary where he could take in and care for more unwanted animals as well as running the hospital. Gentleshaw opened in 1993 and 2007 will see its 14th birthday. The centre is currently home to over 30 different species of birds of prey, primate, reptile, invertebrate, raccoons, cats and much more.

If you would like to visit the centre it is located at Fletchers Country Garden Centre, Stone Road, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6JY. The centre is open 10:30 am until 4:30 pm, (they are closed on Tuesdays, except during school holidays, when they are open 7 days a week). Admission is £3.00 per adult and £2.00 for children and OAP's. (Children under 3 get FREE entry).

Trustee Vacancies

At the forthcoming AGM there will be two vacancies for Trustees.

It is with deep regret that we say farewell to Ian Taylor and Chris Shaw-Thomson (Secretary) who are not standing for re-election this year.

The Trustees would like to thank both of them for all their hard work over the years.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee and, in particular, would like to take on the role of Secretary, then please contact either the Chairman Dean Hemingway on 01565 654292 or Vice-Chairman Steve Davidson on 01925 726704 to put yourself forward as a nominee.

Raptor Rescue Survey 2006/2007

It is now time for the 2006/2007 Annual Survey. We would ask all rehabbers to complete the Survey Forms (even if you have had zero birds) and return them at the earliest convenience. For all rehabbers, the forms are included with this newsletter. The annual survey is an important part of our work enabling us to build a national picture of the number of birds injured and treated each year. Please return the forms to Steve Davidson, Vice-Chairman at the address on the back page of this newsletter.

First Aid Kits

Raptor Rescue First Aid kits are now available at a cost of £25.00 (post free for members). If you would like a kit, please contact Jane or Dean Hemingway on 01565 654292. Kits will be available at the AGM.

Photo ID

We asked in the Issue 1, 2007 Newsletter for all rehabbers to send a photo of themselves in order that we could issue a Photo ID Card for rehabbers when on Raptor Rescue Business. Take up on the ID card has been very poor to date and we would once again request all rehabbers, collectors and anyone involved in fund raising to send a colour head and shoulders photo of themselves to steveandcarol.rr@btinternet.com or by post to Steve Davidson, Vice-Chairman at the address on the back page of this newsletter. The photo ID card will be sent by return post.



Gift Aid

A big thanks to all members who have signed up to Gift Aid. We have raised £735 from the last claim we made. If you haven't already signed up to Gift Aid we would like to encourage you to do so.

Raptor Rescue at Fetes and Fairs etc.

For the past eight years Jane and Dean Hemingway have been actively attending the Falconry Fair and various Game Fairs and Country Shows throughout the UK where they have raised the profile of Raptor Rescue and made lots of friends and good contacts throughout the falconry world.

Most of these events are held over a weekend, which has meant them being away from home for up to two nights. This often meant travelling to an event on a Friday evening and not returning until late on a Sunday night. As Jane and Dean run their own bird of prey business, Broadwings, it has meant they have needed a lot of support from their family; James, Katie and Vicky.

James, Katie and Vicky have all at times attended many of the events with them as well as staying at home to look after the family collection of birds and their numerous dogs. Jane and Dean have also had support from other Trustees and members who have attended events to support them.

Jane and Dean have done a fantastic job over the years and have raised thousands of pounds for the Charity. But as time goes on and we all get a little older, we need to take time out to assess our situations, our lives and our health. James, Katie and Vicky, while continuing to support Jane and Dean, who are not getting any younger, now have their own lives to lead. This has led Jane and Dean to make the painful decision that they can no longer continue to attend all the shows they have in the past.

Would you like to help?

In the future, Jane and Dean will be attending three shows each year. So if any members would like to do some fundraising or general help fly the flag for Raptor Rescue, then we can provide you with everything you will need.

We can provide a utility tent or space in a marquee, provide tables, leaflets, display boards, everything you will need. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact any Trustee for further information.

Working with the RSPCA

Raptor Rescue attended a meeting on Wednesday 22nd August with the RSPCA to look at ways of working together to ensure that bird of prey casualties are directed to the right place and treated as soon as possible.

The meeting took place at the RSPCA Nantwich Animal Centre with Jane and Dean Hemingway, and Steve Davison, attending for Raptor Rescue and Adam Grogan, John Cush, Rupert Griffiths and Richard Seddon from the RSPCA HQ in Horsham, West Sussex.

The RSPCA were very interested in how Raptor Rescue dealt with the handling and treatment of casualties. They were also impressed with the Raptor Rescue Code of Practice, which we are currently in the process of revising.

We will be reporting back to the other Trustee's at the next meeting in October and will then provide further information on how we move forward in the next Update or Newsletter.

Steve Davidson

Festival of Falconry 2007

July 14th and 15th saw the UK's first ever Festival of Falconry at the Englefield Estate near Reading, Berkshire.

With more than 30 countries represented, the two-day festival attracted more than 5,000 visitors including hundreds of falconers from across the world.



The festival was organised by the Hawk Board with support from the International Association of Falconry and the Emirates Falconer's Club and included a falconer's village, with camps from Japan, the Middle East, Europe and North America. There was a daily 'parade of nations' in the main arena, flying demonstrations, workshops on health, breeding and working falconry dogs. There was also a range of trade stands selling an array of falconry equipment.

Raptor Rescue's Jane Hemingway had been tasked with the organisation of the festivals 'rehabilitation area'



The Raptor Rescue Rehabilitation Area



Parade of Nations

Middle East Camp



The festival was a not-for-profit PR exercise to showcase the world's rich falconry heritage that dates back thousands of years. It is hoped that the festival will become a bi-annual event.

Raptor Bits & Bobs

Colorado's Denver Zoo has hatched its first Andean condor chick. The male hatched on May 13th and is only the second to hatch in any zoo anywhere in the world during the past 12 months. When the bird is fully grown it may be considered for a programme in Colombia that releases the birds back into the wild or it may be sent to another zoo for a breeding programme. A mature condor has an 11 foot wingspan, stands 4 feet tall and weighs 30lb, the chick weighed just 8oz when it hatched but by late June had grown to 5lb.



A fledgling peregrine is being trained to become part of a team that keeps pigeons away from the Wimbledon tennis tournament.

An eagle owl was responsible for halting a World Cup qualifying match between Finland and Belgium at Finland's Olympic Stadium. It caused a six minute delay as it flew low level laps around the pitch, pausing to perch on the goal posts.



Sea eagle chicks from Norway have been brought to Scotland as part of a project to re-introduce the birds to the country's east coast. The project is being run as a partnership between the East Scotland Sea Eagle Project, RSPB Scotland, Scottish National Heritage and the Forestry Commission. The chicks aged between four and eight weeks were collected from nests in Norway by the Norwegian Ornithological Society and were delivered to Scotland by the Norwegian Air Force.

Red kites are flying over Ireland again for the first time in two centuries. This is the first part of a four year programme to re-introduce the birds back into Ireland thanks to conservation carried out in Powys, Wales. The birds have been released in the mountains of County Wicklow.



The Hawk Board has recently conducted an audit into the size of falconry in the UK. The findings indicate that there are 25,000 bird of prey keepers in the country, keeping 70,000 raptors. The audit also found that millions of people from all walks of life experience birds of prey each year. There are also some 3,000 full-time equivalent jobs and 300 businesses that exist because of falconry, creating an annual turnover of between £8.5 and £10 million, largely for the rural community. However, the audit

also highlighted that bird of prey keepers are constrained by arcane laws that fail to include birds of prey and their use in falconry.

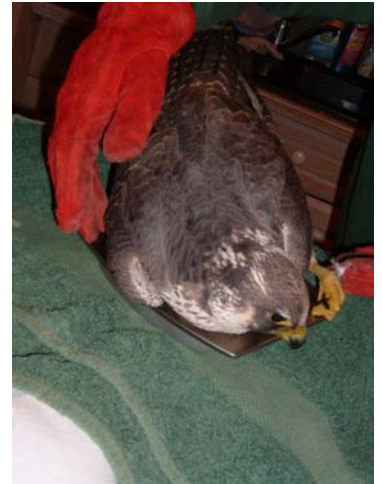


And for a bit of fun, can anyone identify the raptor in this picture? Answers to the editor please, the best will be published in the next Update.

Ryedale Rehab

In Update issue 4, Jean Thorpe of Ryedale Rehab reported on a possible peregrine falcon poisoning, and now we can now report the full story.

The bird turned out to be a first winter female Peregrine Falcon. The bird was in beautiful bodily condition, with a full crop, feather perfect, weighing just over a kilo, with no obvious breaks to the skeleton. She was unable to stand though and was trembling and began to convulse. I left her in a warm quiet box at home and rang Andy Forsyth at Battleflatts vets for advice. We were of the same opinion this bird had been poisoned. Sometime during this conversation this beautiful bird died.



The following morning I rang government agencies, animal and bird charities all of whom showed concern but were not willing to post mortem this bird or do the toxicology. I am amazed and appalled at this attitude, how many more birds must come to light to be turned down for the all important testing for pesticide poisoning. I spent all day on the phone, making a nuisance of myself to try and get something done with this fresh carcass. The only one who would try to help was Vic Simpson of The Wildlife Veterinary Investigation Centre in Truro.

He agreed to do the p.m. but couldn't do the toxicology as it so expensive and very specialised. I wrapped the bird in a towel and then packed the box she was sent in with frozen peas and frozen fruit salad. She was posted off first class and recorded to arrive before 11 am next morning. I could do no more.

The following evening Vic e-mailed me to confirm my findings and to say, in his opinion, the bird had been poisoned. The following morning we asked again, Vic, myself and Geoff Edmond of the RSPCA and by the following day the DEFRA WIIS scheme had agreed to do the toxicology.

The bird was found in February and I heard on the grape vine in June that the bird had died from illegal pesticide poisoning. She had a considerable amount of carbofuran in her crop. This illegal substance had been deliberately left on a bird carcass to kill a bird of prey. Someone, somewhere close to Kirbymoorside is targeting birds of prey; this bird will not have gone far. Other birds will have died unfound. We all know this sort of things go on, now we have proof, undoubtedly, scientifically proven, proof.

Someone somewhere must know something, I have my suspicions but I'm asking for information please. In this day and age we cannot tolerate the indiscriminate killing of precious wildlife. It needs sorting.

Jean Thorpe, Ryedale Rehab



Jean continues to care for many birds of prey. So far this year she has handled 2 juv Little Owls, 9 juv Tawny Owls, 1 juv kestrel and 1 juv Barn Owl, along with a constant stream of road traffic accidents. As well a rehabbing, Jean got to spend two days shadowing ringers Garry and Mike Marchant, ringing Goshawk and Merlin.

Annual and General Meeting - Sunday 28th October 2007

St Joseph's Community Centre, Lichfield Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire

Itinerary

12:00 noon – Doors Open – Time to meet old friends and make new ones.

13:00pm – Buffet Lunch*

14:00pm – Meeting Commences

It is anticipated that the business part of the meeting will take approximately one hour with tea and coffee to follow.

15:30pm – Quiz, a bit of fun testing your general knowledge and that of birds of prey and Raptor Rescue.

17:00 - Depart

*A cold buffet lunch will be served to those who order and pay in advance using the form provided below.

Cost of the buffet is £5.00 per person.

The form should be returned with a cheque made payable to Raptor Rescue to:
Carol Davidson, 28 Victoria Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 2ST before Wednesday 17th October 2007

We regret that anyone who does not order and pay in advance cannot be served any food on the day.

.....
I/We* will be attending the 2007 AGM on Sunday 28th October

I/We* will/will not* require food and refreshments

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of members attending

Total sum enclosed £

* Delete as appropriate

A copy of this form is acceptable to save destroying your newsletter.

How to get there:

The motorways and major routes to Rugeley are:

M1, M5, M6 and A38

There are four roads converging on Rugeley, these are:

A513, A51, A460 and B5013

Approaching Rugeley from the North (A51)

Arrive in Rugeley at the main roundabout with the Travel Lodge and petrol station on the left, go straight ahead on the A51. At next set of traffic lights turn left into Lichfield Street. St Joseph's Church is approx 100 yards on the right.

Approaching from the South (A51)

Arrive in Rugeley at the railway arches and traffic lights, go straight ahead on the A51. Go through the next set of traffic lights, at the roundabout go back on your self the opposite way on the A51 and at the next lights turn left into Litchfield Street.

Park in the free car park next to the church, the community centre is next to the church



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.

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