

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



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

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

NEWSLETTER Issue 1 2008



National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609

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

Online: www.raptorrescue.org.uk

In this issue:

- **Chairman's Chat**
- **2007 AGM**
- **Treasurers Accounts Report**
- **Survey Report 2006/07**
- **and lots more**

Chairman's Chat



I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2008

Some changes have occurred since the last newsletter, we have lost and gained two trustees, Ian Taylor and Christine Shaw Thompson are stepping down as trustees and Steve Dewsnap and Katrina Sullivan are joining the Board, both of whom will be able to put a lot into the charity. Steve Davidson has stepped down as Vice Chairman and has taken over the role of Secretary; Keith Woodhead is now Vice Chairman.

I would like to welcome the Seal and Bird Sanctuary on becoming approved rehabilitators, and we are making arrangements to visit Turbury Wood who have also applied for approved status. Last year we had four hack aviaries and hospital units manufactured and dispatched to various locations around the country.

Since the takeover of the helpline by Gentleshaw last year, calls have increased three fold and they are receiving an average of 60 raptor related calls a month and handling around another 30 unrelated calls. The figures for the survey are down this year due to a lot of rehabilitators not returning completed surveys to Steve Davidson so he cannot get accurate figures to publish. We are looking into other methods which rehabilitators may find a little easier. I will keep you informed of the outcome.

We are always on the lookout for photographs, information, stories, and quick lines for the newsletter. If you have anything at all please do not hesitate to send it in to Steve Davidson. This year the trustees are going to concentrate on a membership drive, not just for members but for rehabilitators and approved rehabilitators across the UK.

Raptor Rescue would like to thank all the rehabilitators for their help over the last twelve months. Should you require any further first aid equipment please contact us and we will send more out to you.

Kind Regards
Dean Hemingway

Secretary's Report



Having only just taken over the role of Secretary at last October's AGM, I am still finding my feet with everything the role requires.

The website continues to be well used and well liked judging by the comments we receive. We get lots of requests via the website for information on how to become a member, a rehabber or advice on specific birds of prey such as the gentleman who phoned the helpline about a kestrel trapped in a warehouse. He was advised that opening the doors wide and putting bread crumbs down might attract small birds or mice and hence get the bird to fly at them and escape through the open doors. He e-mailed to say "I followed your advice and left my lunch, tuna, on the floor near the entrance. I thought you would like to hear that it fell for the tuna and escaped"!!

We get requests for our publications such as the birds of prey and owls booklets, but the most sought after is our Code of Practice which will soon be available in a new format, making updating it a lot easier. The new format has been reviewed by the RSPCA who congratulated Raptor Rescue on the work put into its production.

Steve Davidson

2007 AGM

The 2007 AGM took place on Sunday 27th October at St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, Staffordshire.

The Treasurer gave a statement of the accounts for 2006/2007, which is communicated over the page.

This was followed by an update from Jane Hemingway on the Helpline, which since being taken over by Gentleshaw is receiving around 55 bird of prey related calls per month.

The Chairman gave his report highlighting events from the year and thanking all the Trustees for the work they do and all the members for their continued support.

The five Trustees stepping down this year were Dean Hemingway, Malcolm Robbins, Keith Woodhead, Ian Taylor and Chris Shaw-Thomson. Dean, Malcolm and Keith had indicated that they wished to continue as Trustees and were standing for re-election. Ian and Chris were stepping down, leaving two vacancies. We received three nominations from members to become trustees; these were Steve Dewsnap, Keith Hollingworth and Katrina Sullivan. Following a ballot Dean Hemingway, Keith Woodhead and Malcolm Robbins were re-elected with Steve Dewsnap and Katrina Sullivan becoming new Trustees.

Following the business, those attending were treated to a quiz to test their knowledge on birds of prey, the charity and their general knowledge.

Farewell to Trustees

At this year's AGM Ian Taylor and Chris Shaw-



Thomson stepped down as Trustees. Ian became a Trustee in 1997 taking on the role of Secretary. He stepped down from this role in October 2006 handing over to Chris but staying on as a Trustee to help Chris out. Sadly due to personal reasons, Chris has now had to step down as Secretary, hence the small re-shuffle of Trustee positions. These took place at a short

meeting following the AGM. Steve Davidson stepped down as Vice Chairman and took on the role of Secretary with Keith Woodhead taking the position of Vice Chairman. All other Trustees remain in the previous roles and we welcomed two new Trustee's, Katrina Sullivan and Steve Dewsnap.



The Trustees elected to serve and hold office, for the year 2007/08 are:



Dean Hemingway
Chair



Keith Woodhead
Vice-Chair



Steve Davidson
Secretary



Carol Davidson
Treasurer



Jane Hemingway
Stock Controller



Phil Poole
Membership
Coordinator



Malcolm Robbins
Trustee



New Trustees
Katrina Sullivan
Steve Dewsnap



Treasurers Report of Accounts

Treasurers Report of Accounts 2006/07

Income	2005/06	2006/07
Balance brought forward at 1 September	28105.63	32021.88
Subscriptions	2580.44	2358.00
Sale of Stock	2518.95	1092.28
Donations ¹	13996.75	13577.46
Income from seminar	610.00	-
AGM Buffet	120.00	190.00
AGM fund raising/raffle	86.50	47.00
Interest on deposit account	394.06	382.44
Gift Aid ²	971.88	745.94
Total	49384.21	50415.00

Expenditure	Budget	2005/06	2006/07
Aviaries and Equipment ¹	4000.00	4737.60	3703.80
Rehabilitation ³	6000.00	2046.44	867.71
Administration ⁴	3000.00	3014.87	2238.27
Shows ⁵	1000.00	4933.98	4864.85
Meetings	500.00	1002.49	528.00
Printing ¹	1000.00	74.73	5802.08
Newsletter	1500.00	1072.47	1024.57
Web Site ¹	500.00	167.00	1620.00
Seminar	0.00	312.75	0.00
Total	17500.00	17362.33	20649.28

Notes

- 1 A donation of £10,000 was received from the Primrose Trust for the purchase of portable hacking aviaries, printing the information pack, code of practice booklets and designing the new website
- 2 We were able to reclaim income tax paid on donations made where the individual had signed the Gift Aid
- 3 Fewer medical supplies were ordered and there were fewer vet donations
- 4 This cost was partly for the purchase of a laptop computer and a digital projector for use at shows and seminars
- 5 Improvements were made to the show stand in an attempt to encourage new members as well as the need to hire a van for shows.

I would like to thank all the members for renewing their membership and for any donations made. I would also like to thank the fundraisers for all their continued hard work raising funds for the Charity.



Carol Davidson - Treasurer

Christmas Card 2008

At a Trustee meeting in June 2007, it was suggested Raptor Rescue should look into producing a Christmas Card. Trustees started to look into this but it soon became clear it would take some time to sort out and would not be ready for Christmas 2007.

However, a member of the Warrington Art Group had approached me and Carol to see if they could come to our house to sketch our birds. The evening duly arrived and although it was late summer the weather was its usual wet self. Fortunately we have a large car port so were able to put a selection of birds under there for them to draw. One of the art group members had brought his wife to take photos as she was a member of the Halton Photographic Club. She asked if their members could come and have a photo shoot with the birds.

While this was taking place, I chatted with members of the group about them producing something for a Christmas Card. This was met with great enthusiasm and both groups have now arranged a competition to produce the artwork for a 2008 Christmas Card(s).

To launch the competition at the Warrington Art Group, I went along to one of their meetings with a selection of birds.

The competition will be judged by the Trustees on Monday 7th April and we hope to have the Christmas Cards ready for sale at the fundraising shows later this year. We will also make the cards available by post.



Kookai sits quietly for her portrait!



Muppet sits patiently while Mike Ward starts his drawing.

Warrington Art Group has been meeting for some 54 years and has an active summer and winter programme with something for everyone. During the winter the group meets every other Monday with guest demonstrations or club nights at Grappenhall Community Centre, Warrington. Throughout the summer there is a full schedule of outdoor painting at varied and interesting locations. There are also a number of group exhibitions and social functions throughout the year.

We will bring you details of how the competitions went and the winning entries later in the year plus details of how to get your Christmas Cards, so keep your eyes open in the next newsletter/update.



Sam Ward, aged 11, with Kookai looked over by myself, Roger Rumbold (Chair of Warrington Art Group – back right); dad Mike Ward (back left) and other members of the Art Group

Steve Davidson

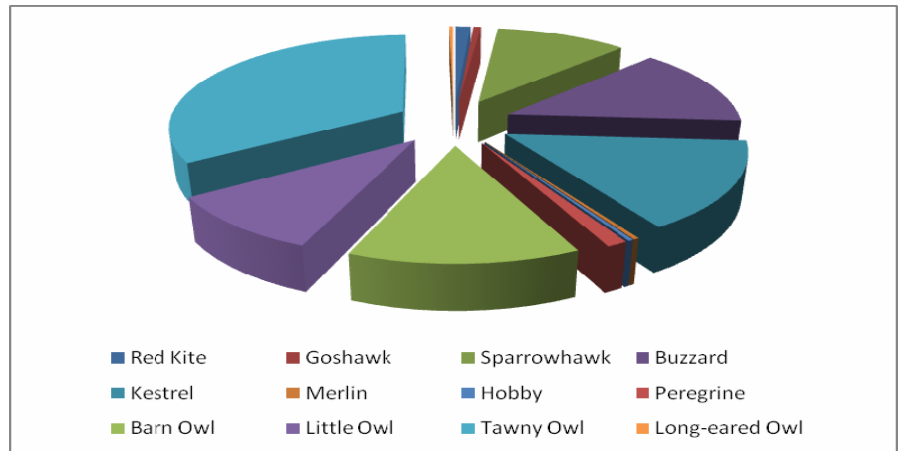
Survey Report for 2006-2007

This year we received returns from 25 (45%) of our rehabilitators of which 7 were nil returns.

We handled a total of 326 wild birds, 18 captive bred birds and 20 Red Kites for relocation, (not included in his report). Of the 326 wild birds handled the outcome of 14 that were retained at the time of the survey was unknown.

The numbers for each species are:

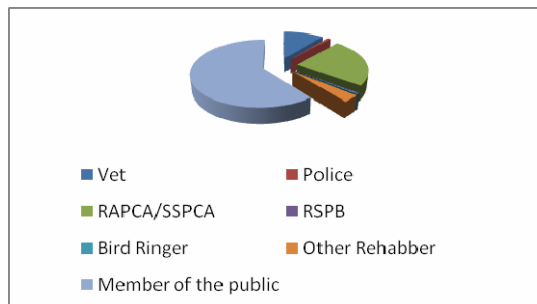
Red Kite (4)
Goshawk (2)
Sparrowhawk (35)
Buzzard (44)
Kestrel (49)
Merlin (1)
Hobby (1)
Peregrine (4)
Barn Owl (43)
Little Owl (32)
Tawny Owl (110)
Long-eared Owl (1)



Of the above, 216 were adult birds, 110 immature. 62 were male, 71 female and 193 could not be identified (103 of these being Tawny Owls).

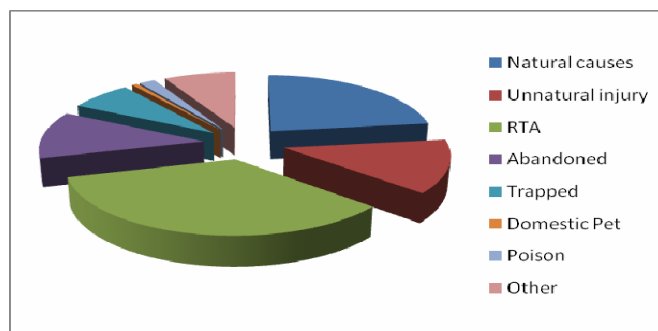
Of the above, birds were received from the following sources:

Vet (35)
Police (3)
RSPCA/SSPCA (77)
RSPB (1)
Bird Ringer (1)
Other Rehabber (11)
Member of the public (198)



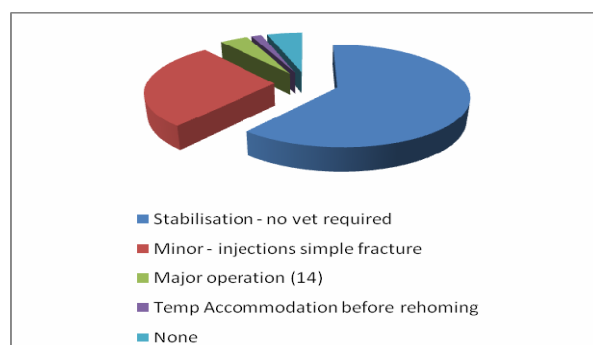
Injuries reported were:

Natural causes (75)
Unnatural/injury (43)
Road Traffic Accident (113)
Abandoned (38)
Trapped (23)
Domestic Pet (2)
Poison (6)
Other (26)



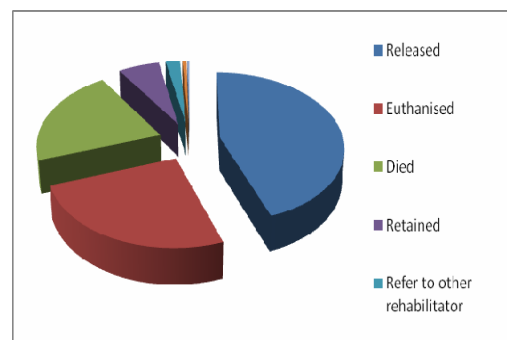
Treatment consisted of:

Stabilisation - no vet required (199)
Minor - injections/simple fracture (91)
Major operation (14)
Temp Accommodation before rehoming (5)
None (17)



We released 145 birds (44.5%), 82 were euthanased (25.1%) with 69 dying (21.1%) 7 (2.1%) were referred to another rehabber, 2 were re-homed, 1 returned to its owner and 20 (6.1%) were still in care at the time of the survey.

This year the majority of rehabbers have reported a decline in the numbers of birds they have handled.



Poisonings

All reported poisonings are investigated and where necessary reported to the Police Wildlife Officer and the RSPB. At the time of going to press, one has been confirmed as a deliberate poisoning (the peregrine reported in previous newsletters) and has been fully investigated. One, a little owl, is only thought to be a case of poisoning by the vet that examined it due to its symptoms but could not be confirmed.

We returned 44.5% of wild casualties back to the wild.

We wish to remind all rehabilitators who have equipment on loan from the charity that it is a condition of the loan that you submit an annual return when requested.



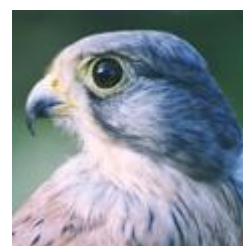
**GENTLESHAW
WILDLIFE CENTRE**

The National Helpline Report – September to December 2007

Since taking over the running of the helpline in September, Gentleshaw have handled 64 calls in September, 67 in October, 67 in November and 39 in December.

The above figures relate to the following:

- Red Kite (1)
- Sparrowhawk (31)
- Buzzard (36)
- Kestrel (47)
- Peregrine (1)
- Barn Owl (26)
- Little Owl (6)
- Tawny Owl (36)
- Long-eared Owl (1)
- Large Owl – species unknown (5)
- Owl – species unknown (11)
- Falcon - species unknown (2)
- Hawk - species unknown (15)
- Bird of prey - species unknown (15)
- Harris Hawks (3)
- Great-horned Owl (1)

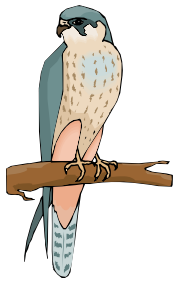


Gentleshaw continues to provide an excellent service manning the helpline

Raptor Bits & Bobs



New Zealand's endemic falcon has returned to breed on the Wairau Plain on New Zealand's South Island for the first time in more than 150 years. The falcons, which are rarer than the Kiwi, have taken up residence in the plains vineyards and two pairs have successfully raised chicks.



The number of Red Kites being poisoned in Scotland went up last year according to the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency. They reported that 11 birds had died from deliberate poisoning, but RSPB Scotland said the number could be a lot higher with birds being deliberately hidden.

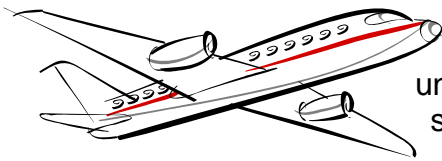
Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed who owns an estate near Inverness, has called for Highland landowners to be prosecuted when their gamekeepers kill birds of prey.

Barn Owl conservationist David Ramsden, head of conservation at the Barn Owl Trust has been honoured with an MBE from the Queen for his services to wildlife.

A poll carried out by the RSPB; put the Barn Owl as the number one farmland bird.



A gyr x saker that was reported lost in Leicestershire in 2005 was successfully reunited with its owner in September last year. The bird was handed in to the Northants-based Safewings Wildlife Conservation Project. It had an IBR ring on which enabled it to be returned to its owner.

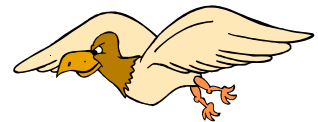


Pilots taking off from Madrid airport have been instructed to fly no faster than 250 knots when under 10,000 ft above the area's protected bird sanctuary in order to avoid collisions with vultures and eagles. Four planes had to make an emergency landing last year.



Plans are being made to re-introduce Sea Eagles into East Anglia.

Chinese authorities in northern Xinjiang recently used eagles to fight a plague of rats that had infected the area.



Two men out jogging in Hollywood Park, USA claim to have been attacked by an owl which rammed into their heads. The attacks took place in the same street but on different days and are thought to have been carried out by a great horned owl.

Would you like to fly the flag for Raptor Rescue? We are always looking for people to help out at the game and country fairs we attend or at other events like the Windermere Airshow or smaller local events like fetes, fairs or carnivals. If you would like to help, please contact Jane or Dean on 01565 654292 or Steve Davidson on 01925 726704



RYEDALE REHAB

Nine, second brood juvenile Barn Owls came in to my care in October 2007. These still fluffy birds had all been found on the floor, either on roads, under nest boxes or trees and they were all hungry and only just able to flit about.

The BTO Barn Owl ringers locally told me there has been a 90% mortality in these second brood birds at nest sites and that we are at the wrong time of year for new bird release.



After much discussion with Barn Owl experts, Natural England, RSPCA etc, we decided they may have to be over wintered. I appealed in the local papers for barn space for these birds with a view to release and donations for food for these beautiful birds. I had a marvellous response from land owners and farmers offering buildings to house the young birds also donations for dead day old chicks to feed them.

Raptor Rescue donated £100 towards their keep, so I'd like to thank everyone who responded, it's heartening to know so many local people care about our birds of prey. The young owls are well and safely housed in quiet places awaiting release. Three of the older birds have been released, and are free to come and go.



They are returning to barns for food whilst they get the hang of things. Hopefully most will survive the winter to add to the numbers of this still endangered species.

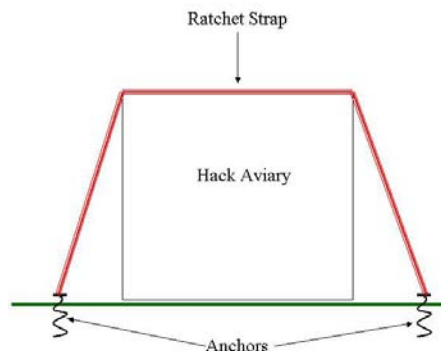
I have just totted up the number (72 in total) of birds of prey through my hands this past year (1.10.06 to 1.10.07) for Raptor Rescue. These included 28 Tawny Owls, 17 Barn Owls, 11 Little Owls, 9 Sparrowhawks, 5 Kestrel, 1 Peregrine and 1 Marsh Harrier.

Jean Thorpe

The Trustees would like to thank Jean for all her hard work and support that she and Ryedale Rehab provide for birds of prey, Raptor Rescue and wildlife in general.

Hack Aviaries

The Trustees have received several reports about our Hack Aviaries moving in high winds. We have spoken with the manufacturer who suggests we use the screw in type dog anchors, one on each side of the aviary and attach a ratchet type strap across the aviary and anchor it to the dog screws or awning straps. We suggest that all rehabbers with Hack Aviaries purchase two screws and a strap and send the receipt to the Treasurer Carol Davidson who will refund the costs.





**GENTLESHAW
WILDLIFE CENTRE**

New Hospital Unit

Gentleshaw's current hospital unit was built fifteen years ago. The 7ft x 22 ft building at the time was a big improvement on the 6 x 4 shed in our back garden. The old shed was adequate but only having 2 hospital cages greatly limited the amount of casualties we could take in. With the opening of Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre, more people got to know us and this led to more casualties being brought in so the need for a larger unit based at the centre was obvious.

Our current unit has 8 hospital cages. Unfortunately budgeting at the time meant the unit was built from short term materials and the ravages of time and weather have now begun to show. The floor has several holes in it and the whole unit now needs replacing. Space is our main problem as the unit must fit into a certain area. Our plan is to replace the wooden building with a Porta Cabin.



*Tawny owl on its arrival at Gentleshaw
after being clipped by a car*

Obviously these 'mobile offices' are built to last and the materials used in their construction would mean a hospital unit that will last. In an ideal world we would have two of these buildings, one on top of the other. The idea being the upper floor would house the casualties in their individually heated hospital cages. The extra room would allow us to have the usual sized hospital cages and some slightly larger 'sick bays' which would allow us to have a medium for casualties to be housed in between leaving the smaller cages and entering aviaries. The lower area would be for treatment only and a nice large area for vets to work in.

The present unit has all the basics but we would like to upgrade everything. Hot and cold running water, a wash basin and sink. We have an operating table and medical cabinets so the main furnishing will be replacing all of our hospital cages with the moulded plastic ones which make cleaning so easy. In the meantime we hope to raise funds for just one cabin.

We are currently trying to find a company who may donate a cabin but if not, we expect the total funds needed to purchase the cabin and kit it out as a hospital unit to be around £4000. Fundraising plans are being made, including sponsored fancy dress days and other events. The fundraising will start after Easter and with some luck the unit will be in situ by the end of the year. Keep your eyes on eBay for a cheap cabin!! If anyone has any fundraising ideas please feel free to get in touch.



Tawny owl on its release

Jenny (Gentleshaw)

If anyone can help Jenny with a Porta Cabin or two, please contact her on Tel: 01785 850379 or e-mail info@gentleshawwildlife.co.uk

Royden Park

Having made contact with a member of the Wirral Ranger Service, we were invited to make use of the Coach House at Royden Park, Greasby, Wirral, in June 2006. Royden Park is a beautiful setting a well wooded park with a large fishing pond, a walled garden and the unique attraction of a miniature steam railway that is run by volunteers most Sundays in the summer, giving rides for the children.

Royden was originally a country estate and the coach house where we set up our stall has a courtyard and a tea bar manned by various charities from March to December. Since 2006 we have set up stall on 8 weekends and at a very rough calculation these visits have netted over £1100 for the Raptor Rescue coffers. Not bad when you consider most of our "punters" are just people out walking their dogs or taking the kids on the train, so they are not carrying much more than loose change for a cup of tea or an ice cream!



We have struck up a very good relationship with the Ranger Service in this time which has led to contacts for other events for us to attend. Last November Marg and I were invited to a meeting of "Coach House Users" and managed to secure 5 dates for 2008 (only doing Sundays this year).

After a suggestion by one of the rangers and with the help of the Hemingway's and the Davidson's we are aiming to put on a bigger day with more birds and display material on Sunday 20th April.

I am hoping that there will be more publicity available to us this year in the Wirral "What's

On" magazine as up to now people have only come across us by chance.



Marg with Dan one of the Rangers and a member of "Friends of Royden Park".

It is a pleasure to attend Royden because being indoors means you haven't got the usual hassle of putting up and taking down marquees and at least you know there is a decent cup of tea and toilet facilities available. Ok it might not be the biggest earner but we are getting out there to a lot of people and as I mentioned earlier, the contact we have made with the Ranger Service is very useful to Raptor Rescue.

We will be fund raising for R/R at Royden Park on the following dates - 30th March, 20th April, 8th June, 31st. August and 26th October 2008.

Steve Dewsnap

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 vets 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 2008 Raptor Rescue
Design and Production -Steve Davidson

Pictures

Cover – Jean Thorpe

Tawny owls – Gentleshaw

Royden Park – Steve Dewsnap

All other pictures – Raptor Rescue

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this publication, no responsibility for loss occasioned to any person as a result of any statement contained in it can be accepted by the author or publisher. Comments made by the author(s) do not constitute advice. The guidelines we issue are advisory only and have no force in law.

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