

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 2009



National Help & Advice Line:

0870 241 0609

Online www.raptorrescue.org.uk

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.

In this issue:

- ✿ Chairman's Chat
 - ✿ Treasurers Report
 - ✿ Annual Survey
 - ✿ Hilarious helpline
- and lots more**

Chairman's Chat



I would like to wish you a happy new year and all the best for 2009.

We have had the website updated again, it is designed for easier access to various areas and it also has an enlargement facility for people with visual problems. This was updated free of charge by Daren Smith of Friday Studios.

As Raptor Rescue have become more recognised not just in the United Kingdom and Europe, we are receiving a lot of correspondence world wide now and with more commitment required from the trustees, a decision was made at the AGM last October to increase the board of trustees to twelve to alleviate the pressure a bit, as we all seem to forget that this is a voluntary run charity.

I would like to welcome Sarah Morton as our new Secretary, Lesley Smith who runs the helpline and Jenny Morgan a trustee. Lesley and Jenny have both been co-opted onto the board of trustees until the AGM in October 2009 and then will be voted on as trustees.

This year Raptor Rescue will be attending apart from there regular shows the Festival of Falconry in Reading on the 11th and 12th July 2009. Nations have been invited from all around the world, and if it is anything like 2007 it is an event not to be missed, so put it in your diary and check out the website for bookings and accommodation at www.falconryfestival.com and come and see us at the stand. This might be the last year that it is held in this country as the show could more than lightly travel around the world.

I would like to thank Steve Lingham our new patron of Raptor Rescue for donating one of his original paintings to raise funds for the charity, if you wish to look at the painting please look on his website www.stevenlingham.com click on originals and then raptors and the painting is called 'Evening on the Moor', we are looking in the range of about £700.00 for the painting, if you are feeling flush or have won the lottery please have a look. If you want to purchase any of Steve Lingham's art work, he will give Raptor Rescue members discount. Steven will also be attending the Festival of Falconry so pop into his stand and have a look at his work.

Here's looking forward to the year ahead.



Dean Hemingway - Chairman

Treasurers Report of Accounts 2007/08

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payment basis and as such constitute a factual record of a summary of all money received and paid by the charity during the year.

Our income for the year was seven thousand, three hundred and eight pounds and seventeen pence (£7,308.17), this is significantly less than 2006/07 due to a £10,000 donation received the previous year. Our total expenditure for the year amounted to twenty thousand, six hundred and forty six pounds and eighty pence (£20,646.80). This is two pounds and forty eight pence (£2.48) less than the previous year. There has been a large expenditure on rehabilitation and rescues this year, including a number of hacking aviaries and hospital units, catch nets and help with rehabilitator's expenses. However, we have saved funds on printing, newsletters and web site costs.

Prepared under Section 42.3 of the Charities Act 1993 for acceptance at 2008 AGM and will be independently examined thereafter under Section 43 of the Act. I confirm that these accounts comply with our current statutory requirements and the constitution of the charity.

These accounts were submitted to the Trustees on Sunday 5 October 2008.

Carol Davidson
Treasurer

Treasurers Report of Accounts 2007/08

Income

Balance brought forward at 1 September
Subscriptions
Sale of Stock
Donations ¹
AGM Buffet
AGM fund raising/raffle
Interest on deposit account
Gift Aid ²
Total

2006/07	2007/08
32021.88	29765.72
2358.00	2190.50
1092.28	1278.71
13577.46	3037.81
190.00	110.00
47.00	51.00
382.44	640.15
745.94	0.00
50415.00	37073.89

Expenditure

Aviaries and Equipment ³
Rehabilitation ⁴
Administration
Shows ⁵
Meetings
Printing ⁶
Newsletter
Web Site ⁷
Total

2006/07	2007/08
3703.80	8352.80
867.71	2687.70
2238.27	2412.27
4864.85	4096.53
528.00	873.32
5802.08	1156.63
1024.57	780.55
1620.00	287.00
20649.28	20646.80

Notes

- 1 Accounts for 06/07 included a donation from Primrose Trust
- 2 We have not made a claim for gift aid in this year. This will be carried forward for next year
- 3 Included the purchase of hacking aviaries and hospital units
- 4 Increase in spend due to payment of vet bills, donations to vets, rehab equipment and rehabbers expenses
- 5 Improvements made last year to the show stand meant less expenditure this year
- 6 Accounts for 06/07 included printing of information packs
- 7 Accounts for 06/07 included redesigning the website

I would like to welcome new members, thank all members for renewing their membership and 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

Raptor Rescue Welcome new Patron Steven Lingham



Steven Lingham is a self-taught artist born in Derby, England in 1973; He has spent the majority of his life living in Yorkshire and is now living in a small rural village near the beautiful old city of York.

Steven has a real passion for British birds, the subject matter for which he is most renowned. He uses a variety of painting media - acrylics, oils, gouache and the occasional pencil drawing, depending upon the desired effect, all of which allow him to attain accuracy in colour, shape and light. Steven will be flying the flag for Raptor Rescue when attending event like the Falconry Fair and Festival of Falconry, he has kindly donated the above picture 'Evening on the Moor' to Raptor Rescue to raise funds for the Charity.



For further information on Steven and to see his work, visit his website at www.stevenlingham.com

2008 AGM

The 2008 AGM took place on Sunday 26th October at St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, Staffordshire.

The Treasurer gave a statement of the accounts for 2007/2008, (see previous page).

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 Steve Davidson, Carol Davidson, Jane Hemingway, Andy Craven and Phil Poole. With the exception of Phil Poole the other Trustees had indicated that they wished to continue as Trustees and were standing for re-election.

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

The roles of the trustees have changed a little this year. Steve Davidson has passed the role of secretary to Sarah Morton, a newcomer to the board of trustees. Steve will continue to carry on with the annual survey and the newsletter. Philip Poole (right) has stepped down as membership coordinator this month and has passed his role onto Katrina Sullivan. Jane Hemingway is no longer stock controller this is now carried out by Steve Dewsnap.



The Trustees elected to serve and hold office, for the year 2008/09:



Dean Hemingway



Keith Woodhead



Sarah Bennett



Carol Davidson



Katrina Sullivan



Steve Dewsnap



Malcolm Robins



Steve Davidson



Andy Craven



Jane Hemingway



Jenny Morgan



Lesley Smith

Trustees roles are:

Dean Hemingway - Chairman, fundraiser
Keith Woodhead - Vice Chairman, fundraiser
Carol Davidson - Treasurer, fundraiser
Sarah Bennett - Secretary.
Katrina Sullivan - Membership Coordinator, fundraiser.
Steve Davidson - Newsletter editor, annual survey, fundraiser.
Malcolm Robbins - Press Editor, fundraiser.
Steve Dewsnap - Stock controller, fundraiser.
Jane Hemingway - Events organiser, Fundraiser.
Andy Craven - Communications, fundraiser.

Co-opted Trustees

Jenny Morgan - Helpline
Lesley Smith - Helpline

Hilarious helpline!

Since taking over the Raptor Rescue Helpline in 2007, Lesley Smith at Gentleshaw Wildlife Hospital has been handling around 100 calls a month. Most of these calls are genuine bird of prey related which she is able to deal with very efficiently.

However, running the Helpline can be hard work, interesting and often rather amusing. Below are a few of the more interesting calls we have dealt with recently.

Oil's well that ends well!

Caller: "Hello, we have just fished a raptor out of the sea, it is soaking wet but apart from that it's ok,"

Helpline: "Ok, can you tell us what county you are in and we will try to find a rehabber in your area"

Caller: "I am on an oil rig 250 miles up from Scotland"

Helpline: "err... That could be a problem, afraid we don't have a rehabber in that area, when will you be back on the main land?"

Caller: "Heading back today...via Holland"

Helpline: "Right, if you can keep the bird warm, it may hold on until you get home. Have you anything you can feed it?"

Caller: "Yes, I will go ask the chef now for some raw meat and contact you if it survives till we get back".



Some days later he did call back, the bird (a hobby) had arrived safe and sound, dry and well fed. A rehabber was contacted and the bird went on to be released, none the worse for its cruise!

Where eagles dare!

Caller: "Hello, there is an eagle in our builder's yard,"

Helpline: "Not likely sir, it is probably a buzzard,"

Caller: "It's got straps on"

Helpline: "Ok, it's one that someone has lost then. Has it any distinctive colour's on it?"

Caller: "Yes, it's got white on its tail, it's ever so big"

Helpline: "Sounds like Harris hawk."

Caller: "It's got a white head and a massive yellow beak"

Helpline: "erm, it sounds like you may have a bald eagle, we will contact the IBR".

Caller: "Ok, shall I go pick it up 'cause the crows are picking on it?"

Helpline: "Not a good idea, the eagle is liable to pick on you!"

The Eagle was a baldy and was collected by its distraught owner.



Falling for a bird!

Caller: "There is a buzzard sitting in a field"

Helpline: "Does it appear injured or distressed"

Caller: "Not sure, it's walking about on the floor"

Helpline: "They do sometimes look for insects, can you approach the bird and see if it flies away;

Caller: "Yes sure, hang on, Footsteps, crash, bang, wallop, swear word,

Caller: "Ouch"

Helpline: "Are you ok?"

Caller: "No, I fell over a fence. Oh, the buzzard has flown off."

Helpline: "At least one of you is uninjured!"

How do you like your eggs madam?

Caller: "I have just boiled an egg and it is cheeping, what shall I feed it on when it hatches?"

Helpline: "Its cheeping, how long has it been in the water?"

Caller: "4 minutes, well what shall I feed it?"

Helpline: "Where did you get the egg?"

Caller: "The shop, it's been in the fridge. What shall I feed it?"

Helpline: "It's not likely to hatch madam"

Caller: "Well its cheeping "

Helpline: "Is there a small triangle shaped hole on the egg where you may see a beak pushing through?"

Caller: "Triangle? It's an egg, its round. What shall I feed it?"

Helpline: "We will give you a contact who deals with chickens"



The Helpline also receives a lot of calls relating to trapped birds:

Caller: "There is a hawk trapped in our warehouse"

Helpline: "Ok, there are a few things you can try to tempt the hawk to leave"

Caller: "But you don't understand, we are not allowed birds in here!"

Caller: "I insist that you come out now and remove this hawk from my warehouse, the bird is in a warehouse measuring 100ft by 200ft, and the bird has been flying around about 60ft up, come and catch it now"

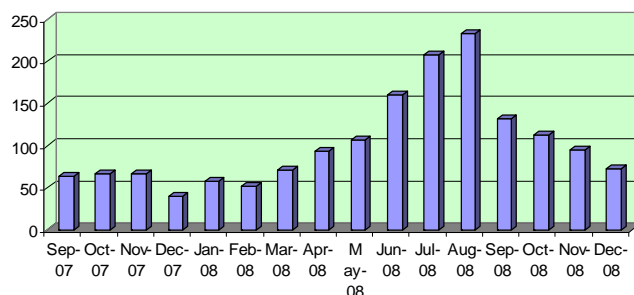


Caller: "A Tawny owl has fallen down the chimney into our office; it has now ensconced itself in a filing cabinet!"

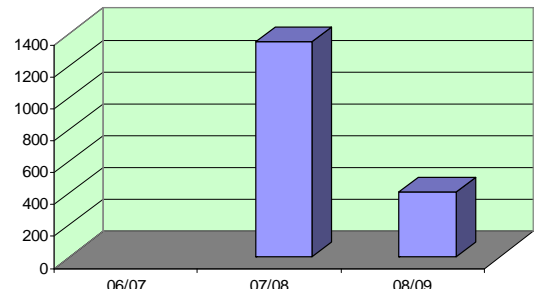
We also get some calls relating to reptiles as some people out there associate the word 'Raptor' with dinosaurs, dinosaurs are lizards, lizards are reptiles, so lets ring Raptor Rescue. So occasionally we do get calls to see if we can re-home various species of reptile.

Lesley Smith & Jenny Morgan (Gentleshaw)

Monthly Calls to the Raptor Rescue Helpline



Year-on-Year Calls to the Raptor Rescue Helpline



Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre has now started the big fundraiser for 2009.

We are hoping to replace our old hospital unit with a shiny, almost new one. More space, better facilities and better equipment will hopefully mean we can take in more casualties and up grade our standard of care. We are on a mission to raise around £5500. This will buy us a portacabin and pay for the interior. Raptor Rescue has already been kind enough to make a donation, but we still have a long way to go.

Gentleshaw will be organising fun days, sponsored activities and much more over the coming year, keep your eyes out to see if you can help. Want to help now? Did you get a Christmas present you can really live with out? Why not eBay it for charity, you can choose to donate all or some of you profit to Gentleshaw. Look for us on eBay charities. Every bit helps.

Thank you.

HELP!

We are looking for rehabbers to add to our list in the following areas, if you would like to go on the list or know of anyone in one of these areas who would like to help then please contact Lesley or Jenny via the Helpline number: Avon, Bedfordshire, Birmingham, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Manchester, Merseyside, Northumberland and Teesside

Here are few tales from some of our other rehabbers!

I had just pulled up at my house after returning from work when a lady neighbor came running across and said "Keith, glad you are back" and gave me a shoe box. We took the box into the house and very carefully opening it and found it contained a bat. "I'm sorry but I know nothing about bats" I said to which she replied "But you take in birds and they fly" "So do jumbo jets and I know nothing about them either" I told her. As we all should learn by our experiences I now have the phone number for a local bat rescue!

Quite a few Christmas's ago I gave Mick Cunningham (Past chairman and 1st class rehabber) a call on Boxing Day. The conversation went like this:-

"Hi Mick, Happy Christmas and can you give me some advice"

"Will try"

"Have a bird in that's looking really bad at present, it has a lot of flesh missing from its chest"

"Oh Dear"

"Also its left leg is hanging off"

"Oh my goodness"

"It's looking pretty miserable"

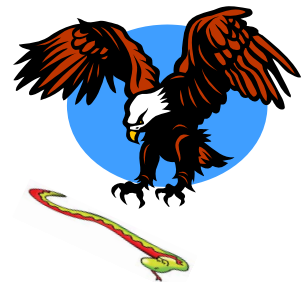
"What kind of bird is it?"

"It's our Turkey"

"# # # # # #" was the reply

Strange, But True!

Many of us have phobias, fear of spiders, sharks, flying or snakes. If you have a fear of flying you won't get on an aeroplane or if you have a fear of sharks you are not likely to go swimming in the sea. If you had a fear of spiders or snakes you would keep well clear of them especially if they were poisonous. So try to picture this!



A hot sunny day in Iran, a bird of prey out hunting snatches up a poisonous snake and as the bird flies over a road the snake wriggles free and drops into a passing open top car with four people in it. The snake bites all four people killing two of them instantly, while the other two had to be taken to hospital for treatment. So if you are in a hot country which has poisonous snakes....don't hire an open top car.



Rescued Peregrines

The two Peregrines rescued from a hotel in Cheshire last July are so imprinted that it will never be returned to the wild. One of the birds has now gone to Jemima-Parry Jones who reported on her website that 'She is beautiful, but the screaming she does is close to unbearable. I have hoped that with all the noise she would at least fly well.

Sadly to date she flies appallingly badly. She and her sister were spotted on a drugs raid, but by the time the PWLO came the birds had disappeared. They turned up a couple of days later on a hotel and were rescued by Raptor Rescue, sent to a friend of mine, who assessed them and so did a vet and they are classed as non releasable. I was sort of hoping that the one who came to me and was quiet on arrival might be releasable, but having trained and flown her, the answer is most definitely no'. Jemima went on to explain how trying to imprint birds can go badly wrong.

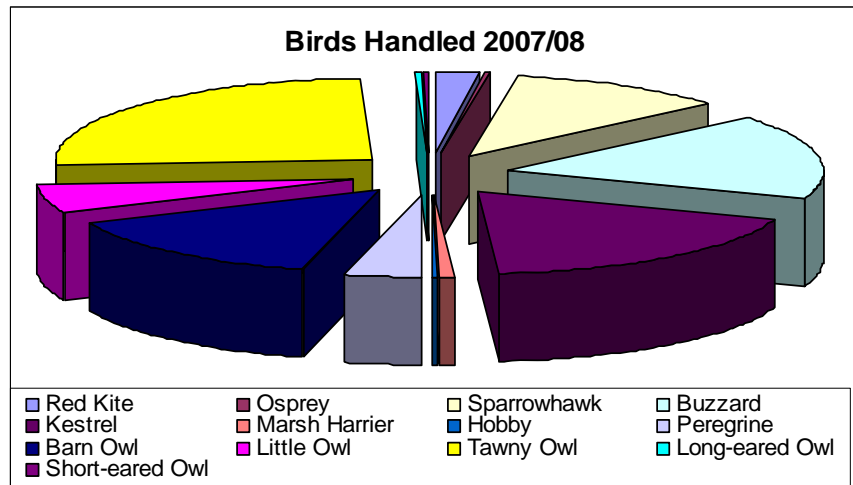
Survey Report for 2007-2008

This year we received returns from 30 (59%) of our rehabilitators of which 3 were nil returns.

We handled a total of 394 wild birds, 20 captive bred birds. Of the 394 wild birds handled the outcome of 20 that were retained at the time of the survey was unknown.

The numbers for each species are:

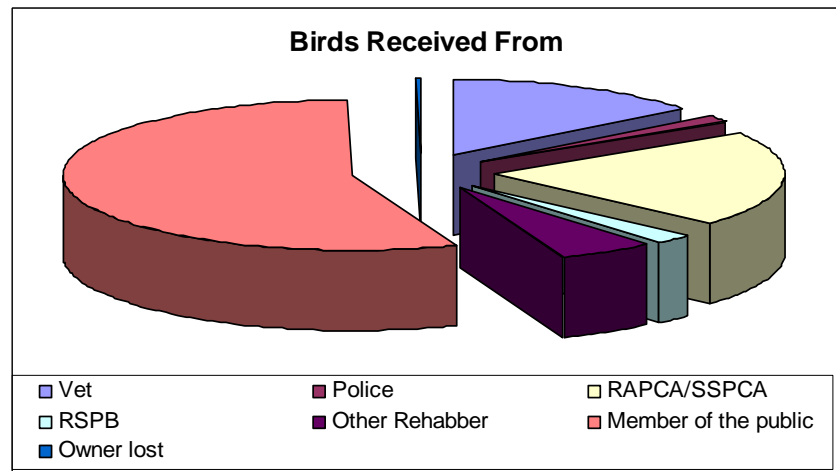
Red Kite (9)
Sparrowhawk (43)
Buzzard (67)
Kestrel (72)
Osprey (1)
Marsh Harrier (3)
Hobby (1)
Peregrine (15)
Barn Owl (57)
Little Owl (23)
Tawny Owl (99)
Long-eared Owl (3)
Short-eared Owl (1)



Of the above, 228 were adult birds, 166 immature. 101 were male, 107 female and 186 could not be identified (80 of these being Tawny Owls).

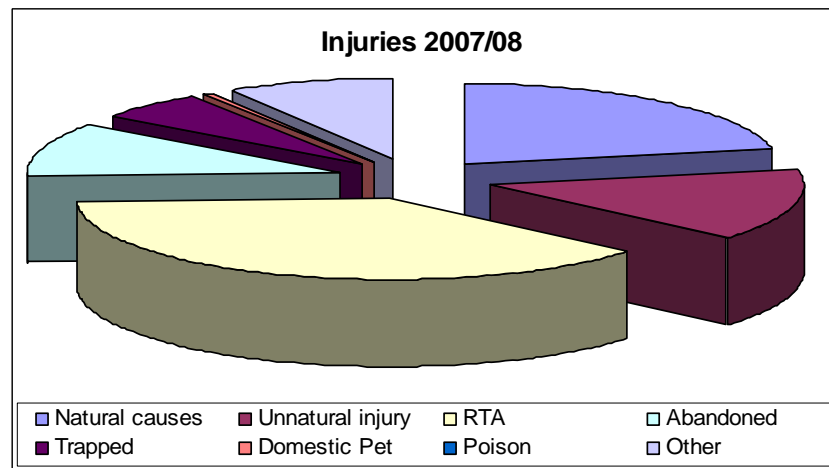
Of the above, birds were received from the following sources:

Vet (57)
Police (7)
RSPCA/SSPCA (80)
RSPB (10)
Bird Ringer (0)
Other Rehabber (21)
Member of the public (219)

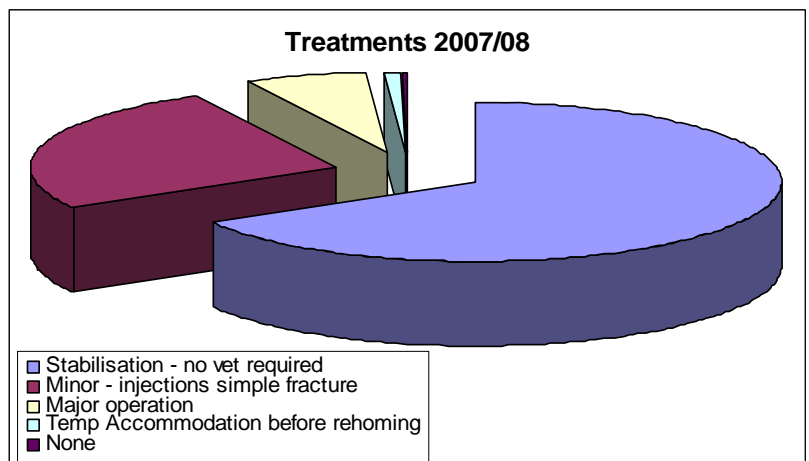


Injuries reported were:

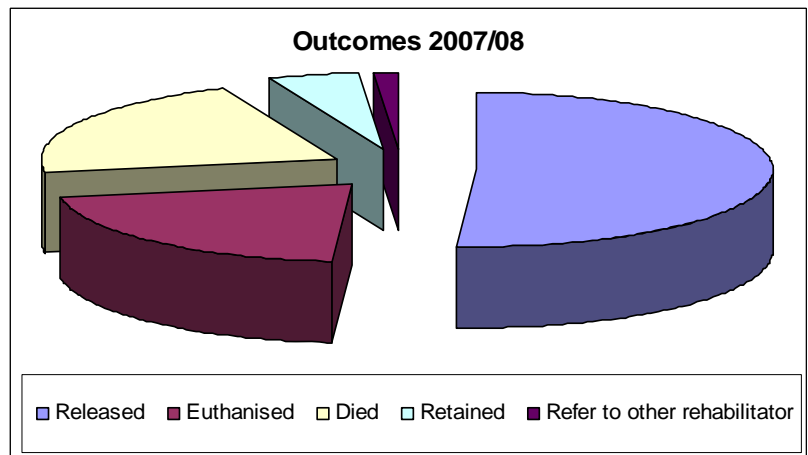
Natural causes (83)
Unnatural/injury (58)
Road Traffic Accident (152)
Abandoned (44)
Trapped (22)
Poison (1)
Other (34)



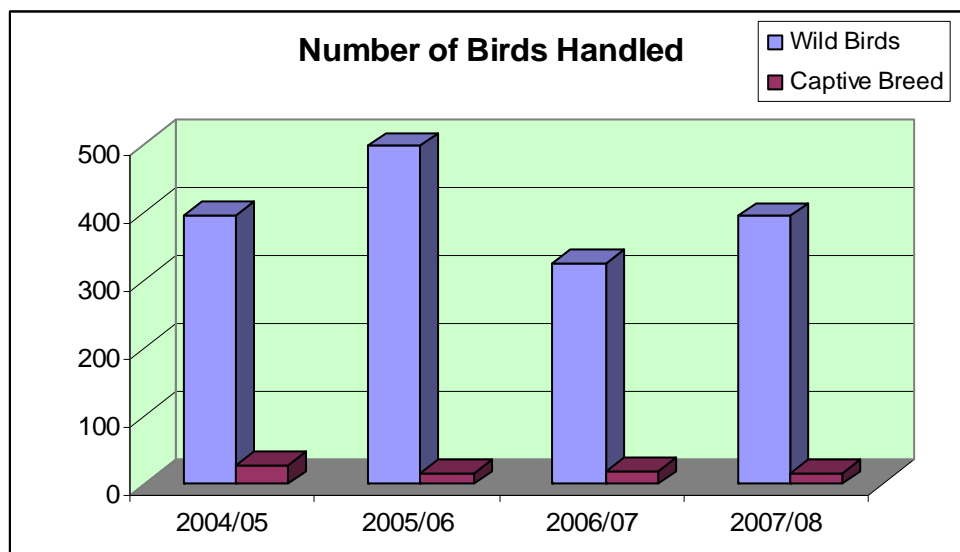
Treatment consisted of:
 Stabilisation - no vet required (262)
 Minor - injections/simple fracture (102)
 Major operation (26)
 Temp Accommodation before re-homing (3)
 No treatment (1)



Overall we released 201 birds (51%),
 85 euthanased (22%) with 83 dying
 (21%) 5 (1%) were referred to another
 rehabber and 20 (5%) still in care at the
 time of the survey.



This year there has been a slight increase
 on the number of birds handled.



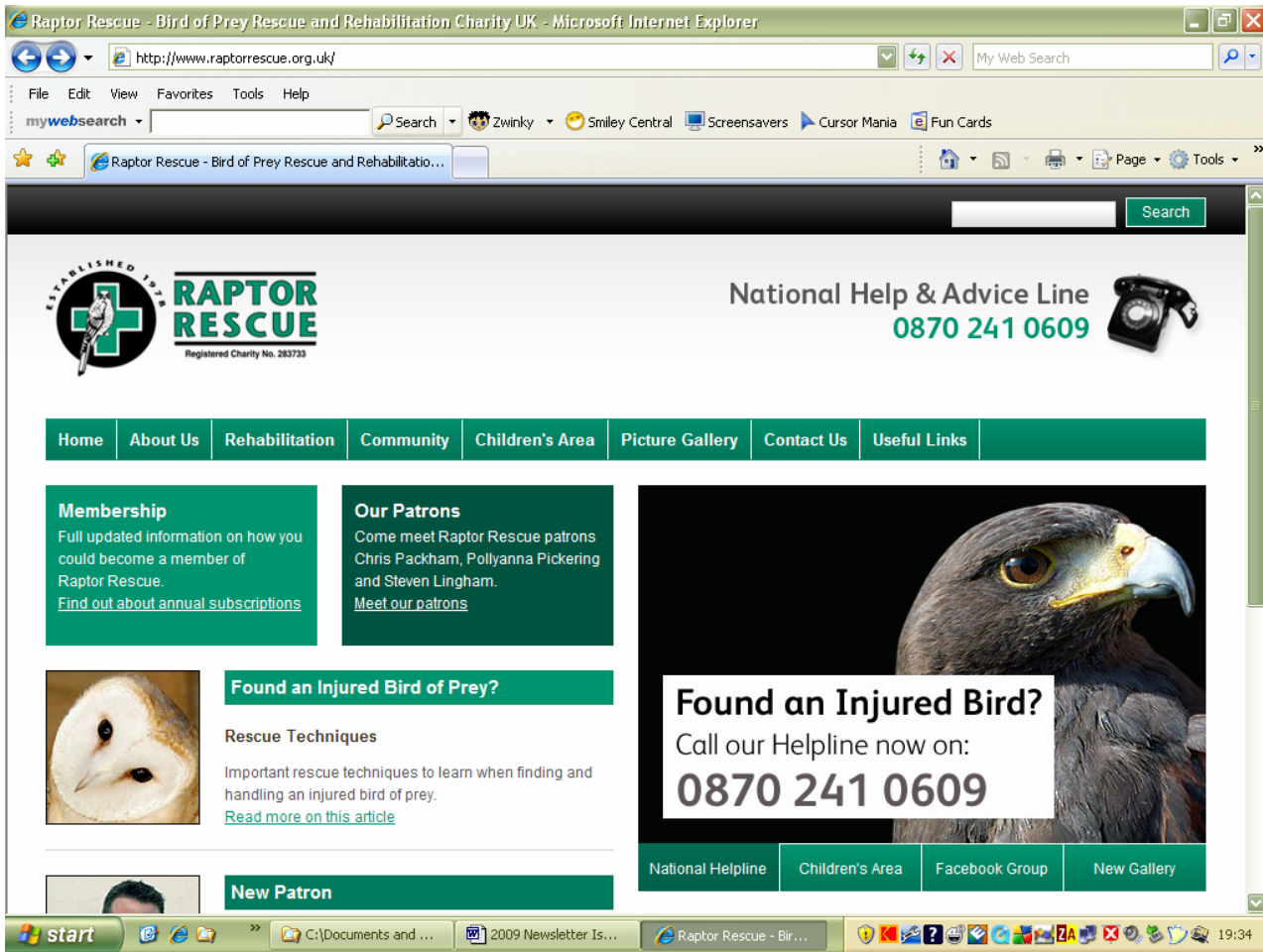
NB. All poisonings reported to the Police Wildlife Officer and the RSPB.

**We returned 51% of casualties
 back to the wild.**

I would like to thank all our rehabilitators for their continued work and support. This has been one of the best years for rehabbers sending in their returns, 59% in all, perhaps next year we can get nearer to the 100% mark.

We would welcome any comments about the above results and 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.

Raptor Rescue Website Gets a Face Lift



The Raptor Rescue website has been given face lift to bring it up to speed with current web design. Please take a look at the site and let us know what you think.

Our thanks to Darren Smith of Friday Studios (www.fridaystudios.co.uk) for his hard work in re-vamping the site.

Thank you for your donations

The board of Trustees would like to thank the following people and organisations for their kind donations:

Mrs Green (donation as an alternative Christmas present)
Paul Mack from Pick and Wrap Gifts
Elm Cottage
Val Turner and family
Londonfurs
Miss R Swales
Bakewell Brownies
Sue and Chris Mitchell from Birds of Bray

Welcome to the following New Members:

Angela Bradley
Paul Cook
Ross Franklin
Roger Giles
Mrs S Goodwin
Sharon Gore
Martin Hoole
Paul Mack
Sarah Morton

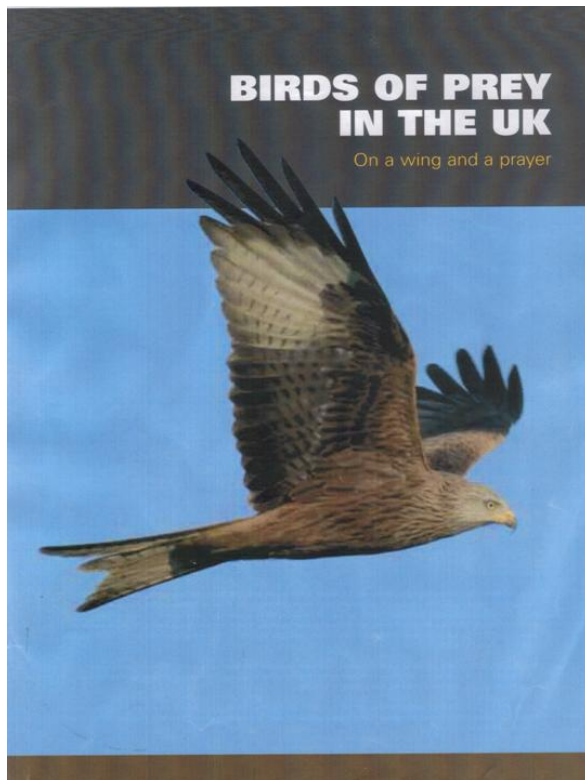


CAN YOU HELP!

Raptor Rescue member Ann Lidington is looking for someone to look after her two barn owls during June and July while she is out of the country.

If you live in Essex or the East Herts area and can help, please contact Ann on **01279 423201** or e-mail her at **a.lidington@btconnect.com**

RSPB Launch New Bird of Prey Campaign



The RSPB has launched a new campaign relating to the plight of some of the UK's birds of prey.

In conjunction with the new campaign is the 'Birds of Prey in the UK: on a wing and a prayer', a publication produced collaboratively by 26 organisations to highlight the value and importance of birds of prey in the UK.

A small number of people in the UK see birds of prey as a threat and portray their recovery as 'out of control', some go even further by breaking the law which has serious and sad consequences for our birds of prey. This publication seeks to separate fact from myth, based on evidence, not anecdote.

For full details of the campaign and for a copy of 'Birds of Prey in the UK: on a wing and a prayer' please go to RSPB website:
www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/birdsofprey



Help Wanted

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 smaller local events like fetes, fairs or carnivals. If you would like to help, please contact Dean Hemingway (Chairman) on 01565 654292



Benefits of Membership

Membership of Raptor Rescue is open to anyone with an interest in birds of prey and who wish 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 a 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.

If you leave a message, please leave a number.

All calls are charged at the national rate.

This issue published Raptor Rescue, February 2009.
Design and Production -Steve Davidson

Pictures
Cover – Steve Davidson
Trustees – Steve Davidson

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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Pollyanna Pickering
Steve Lingham**

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