

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



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

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

NEWSLETTER Issue 2 2010



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**Annual and General
Meeting Sunday 24th
October 2010
Details and Trustee
nomination forms
enclosed**

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.

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the September Newsletter, I hope you find it an interesting read, as my first year as Chair draws to a close it has been a busy and eventful year. The fund raising year got off to a good start at the Falconry Fair in May and the Charity has attended a variety of country fairs and other events across the country.



I would like to give a big thanks to Trustee Ian Taylor for all his hard work on bringing the Rehabilitators Handbook and Code of Practice up-to-date. He was asked back in January 2009 to have a look at it and see if it needed any changes, in particular to the legislation section, twelve months later, he was still working on it. The second edition was ready in time for the Falconry Fair and since then, Ian has also updated the information pack as well.

Malcolm Robbins has been busy as our re-homing co-ordinator, the Charity has been receiving record numbers of calls from people wanting to re-home captive bred birds and while our primary concern is sick and injured wild birds of prey, we will always help where we can. Please see Malcolm's Re-Homing Activities report on page 5.

I would like to thank all the Trustees for all their hard work throughout the year for the Charity.

Irish Rehabilitators Conference

Irish Wildlife Matters



Earlier this year Raptor Rescue was contacted by Emma Higgs from Ireland to enquire if someone from Raptor Rescue would like to attend the first Irish Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference to be held in August. Emma is trying to set up an Irish Wildlife Rehabilitators Trust; the first step was to set up the Irish Wildlife Matters Website <http://www.irishwildlifematters.ie/> and then arrange the conference, which took place on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd of August at the Best Western Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda, Co.Louth. The Saturday was for Veterinary Professionals and the Sunday for anyone with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation. We attended the Sunday as it was felt that this would be a good stepping stone to getting Raptor Rescue's name established in Ireland. The Saturday was attended by some 70 vets and nurses and the same number of wildlife rehabilitators on the Sunday.



Irish
Wildlife
Rehabilitation
Conference 2010

Both days consisted of a series of talks from ranger Ann Fitzpatrick talking on the National Parks & Wildlife Service role in rehabilitation, then vet Joanna Hedley on mammal rescue and first aid, Grace Yoxon from IOSF on otter rescue and first aid, Maggie Brown on bat rescue and first aid and vet John Chitty on bird of prey rescue and first aid. The same people then held a series of

hands on sessions for the practical capture, handling and first aid for mammals and birds.

On the Sunday I gave a talk on how the Charity was set up and how it operated. What we hadn't realised until the very end session from Emma on the development of the Trust, was how much she wanted it to be set up the same as Raptor Rescue, but for all wildlife.

I felt the weekend was a big success, there was lots of enthusiasm from the attendees and everyone was pleased that Raptor Rescue had attended and we were asked lots of questions. I don't think it will be long before the Irish Wildlife Rehabilitators Trust is up and running and I wish Emma and all the wildlife rehabilitators in Ireland all the best in their new venture.

And finally, please don't forget it is the AGM on Sunday 24th October, (details enclosed), any member can be nominated to become a Trustee and we are always looking for new members to join the Board of Trustees to help run the Charity. I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to meeting you on the day.

Steve Davidson

Rehabilitating

A Most Unusual Rescue

Living on the North Coast of Caithness, Scotland about 3 miles from the most northerly part of the United Kingdom mainland, one could say that we are off the beaten track. Being the only member of Raptor Rescue as far as I know in Caithness and Sutherland, we can expect to travel large distances in an effort to rescue birds of prey.



Over the years my wife and myself have been asked to go to some unusual places to recover birds, these include the Castle of Mey, the Caithness home of HRH The Queen Mother to recover a peregrine falcon stuck in a tower, a juvenile sparrow hawk from the living room of a croft house and a kestrel from a pheasant pen. Normal recoveries you might think, then one morning we received a call from a lady in Aberdeen. She stated that her husband had an owl that had flown onto his boat. Something we had never come across before a rescue from a boat. I asked the lady where the boat was now, "Oh" she said "It's a trawler owned by my husband, its 20 nautical miles from Norway coast and 30 nautical miles from the Orkney Islands".

You can imagine my thoughts 'how the hell do I get there', the lady said that she would give me here husband's mobile phone number? I rang the number and spoke to the captain of the trawler; he related the story of how the owl had appeared on his boat. It had flown onto the deck of the trawler having been mobbed by gulls; one of the crew caught it and placed it in a small room (a toilet) on the boat.

They said it was hungry and had been fed on scraps of meat and fish. Now the million dollar question was how can I get the owl from you? It was a relief that the weather was turning bad, because of high winds and storms the captain had stopped fishing and was heading for Scrabster, a fishing port 10 miles from our home. A time and date was set to meet the boat and off we went with box to Scrabster.

On arrival we enquired as to the location of the trawler, the harbour master pointed to a large blue trawler tied to the side of 3 other vessels about 100 yards out from the dock, there was a good swell in the dock the vessels moving about quite a bit, again the question was how do I get to it? The harbour masters answer I had to climb down the ladder onto the first trawler then as swell allows jump across to the deck of the next boat, cross to a ladder over the side of the second boat, climb up to the deck repeat this for the third boat and finally swell allowing cross to the trawler with the owl on board.

This was going to be hard enough with hands free but carrying a large box and doing it all one handed seemed a little difficult, to cut a long story short much to the amusement of the trawler crews off I went down the ladder wait for the swell step across onto boat, one wait again box in hand jump and climb arriving finally on the destination trawler. Now where is the owl, oh it's down below, cross the deck and through that hatch, down the ladder through the engine room and it's in the room at the end.

Not being the smallest of people the hatch looked very small and the drop into the engine room a long way down added to the movement of the boat in the swell, after a very tight squeeze I arrived at my destination opened to door to find a very small short eared owl perched on the top of the toilet. Owl recovered, the journey back was assisted by crews and I arrived back on dry land. Back home I inspected the owl; there were no injuries although it was a little hungry. It was put into isolation and fed some chicks for a couple of days, I had it checked over by the vet then released on the north coast. End to a happy tale.

Bob & Jane Renshaw



Gentleshaw

Baby Kestrels

Holly came first. We were called out to a lovely house called the Hollies for a Tawny owl, when we got there we found 'Holly' a young (around 6/7 weeks) Kestrel. A bit too young to fledge, she couldn't fly and was brought in as she was sitting in the middle of a cat infected garden with no signs of Mom or Dad.

Herbert was brought in as a baby Buzzard (Herbert was the rescuers surname). Found in a field on the floor, this little chap is only around 4 weeks old. The strong winds at the weekend are probably to blame for the youngsters being dislodged from their nests.

Having the two is great as they can now be reared together. Both are feeding themselves, both dislike humans and although they may be with us for a while, the risk of them becoming imprinted on humans is extremely low, they don't get to see their dinner ladies and move from one hospital unit to another without human interference so we can keep them *relatively* clean.



Tawny



Sunny was bought into us one Sunday lunch time. She had been found collapsed and was dehydrated. As she was a mature Tawny owl we wanted to get her back out to her territory as soon as possible as the chances were she had chicks somewhere.

Some fluids and some food, she began to feed herself and quickly perked up. With no other problems showing she went out on the following Tues night. Short but sweet!



Barn Owl & Harris Hawk



This Barn Owl (right) was found with a leg injury and was very grubby. He has a ring on, but no owner has come forward, so he now lives at Gentleshaw

This Harris Hawk (left) was brought in by its owners when it began to act odd. The bird's beak was so overgrown; the bird could not feed and was starving to death. He was treated at Gentleshaw and is now fighting fit.



Tips for Rehabilitators

We thought it would be a good idea to have a Tips for Rehabilitators page in future newsletters, so if you have any tips on rehabilitation you would like to pass on, please send them to me at steve.vulture@btinternet.com

ATTENTION Rehabilitators:

Following on from our attendance at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, John Chitty gave an informative talk on Raptor Rehabilitation. He advised that in 'starvation' cases it is best to avoid giving glucose solutions orally, basically because birds of prey and owls are carnivores, i.e. protein eaters. As an alternative, give isotonic/electrolyte solutions orally initially and once hydrated give Oxbow Carnivore Care, (granules added to water).



Mayonnaise gets glue off Tawny owls!
Hellmann's is best but other brands are just as good.

Sparrowhawks trapped in warehouses, open the doors, put breadcrumbs in the open doorway to attract small birds and hope the Sparrowhawk goes for them and out into the open.

RyedaleRehab

Ryedale had 2 Barn Owls go back end of July.

The first had a broken wing mid shaft, radius and ulna, enclosed in the skin still, thank goodness, no infection to battle with!

The bird was rested in a RR intensive care box with log perch for 16 days. Fed well, tried in an aviary and yes; a flyer. Moved to long flight to gain strength and finished off. He was taken for release a week later, back to his own area and released near a rape field well back from the busy road, which had caught him out. He flew strong and true, circling the big field, flipped over a tall hawthorn hedge and into a large sycamore tree. It is always so special to get a bird back after a broken wing.



The second success last week was an adult male rung in 2004 as a nestling near Witherensea.

He's set up home on the outskirts of Hull. He had been hunting the banksides of the Holderness drain, a wonderful wildlife corridor which runs through Hull. He was found dangling from fishing line caught on a wing tip high up in a tree. The Fire brigade were called out and cut down branches to free him.

They boxed him up and he was collected by the RSPCA and brought to Ryedale, he was a bit jangled up and needed a few days to settle and regain his composure. I traced the BTO ring and went out to meet the ringers for his release. We walked the drain, which is more like a canal, with clear water, lots of insects and rough bank sides, ideal for hunting birds of prey.

It's always a thrill to see a wild bird back in its element and so it was with this fine adult Barn Owl. Off he went without a backward glance, flying the grassy slopes to home.

Jean Thorpe

Re-Homing Activities

One of the lesser known, but fast increasing, activities of Raptor Rescue is the re-homing service that is provided for Birds of Prey and Owls. The role to co-ordinate the service was accepted on the basis it was a relatively small activity with no indication of the potential increase or indeed the situations it would involve. There are many reasons why birds come in to Raptor Rescue for re-homing; in some cases it is a captive bred bird that has been found and we cannot trace an owner; in others it may be a bird handed over as a direct consequence of the current economic climate when a change in circumstances means an owner is unable to keep their bird. Others come in as a result of relationship break ups or when that lovely fluffy chick turns into a demanding bird equipped with talons and a sharp beak. Some cases are really sad as when a lovely man called to request a new home for his owl as he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and wanted to get the bird fixed up in the new home before his condition worsened. It was a very emotional handover.

Downsizing house is another increasing reason for re-homing birds and this too can lead to an emotional situation – on more than one occasion there has been a waiting period while someone finally makes up their mind and tears on parting is a very regular occurrence.

People often fail to appreciate that keeping Birds of Prey and Owls are not short term commitments and they can outlive their owners, leaving a problem for their relatives; similarly in another recent case we responded to a call where a lady's husband had died suddenly and she urgently needed to re-home his remaining birds. This simple request turned into a major saga as two different callers, independently of each other, contacted Raptor Rescue to arrange the re-homing and when the calls were passed on the birds were described in one call as "ancient buzzards" and as "mature Red Tails" in the other and the name of the owner of the birds was given as different. Suffice it to say, we ended up making separate collection arrangements for two sets of birds only to receive a further answer phone message (after the two different callers had spoken to the owner's widow but not each other) that someone else had offered to collect the birds and Raptor Rescue's services were no longer required.

Luckily, we called to confirm that we would not be going and realised from the conversation that it was highly unlikely that two people would have died in identical circumstances on the same day in the same hospital, leaving two Birds of Prey looking for new homes. We arranged to collect the birds – two ancient Red Tails – and having boxed and loaded the birds, we were finalising the paperwork when the lady suggested we took the remaining stock of frozen chicks as she had no further need for them. This offer that was accepted with alacrity, as there were five or so boxes of chicks next to a freezer in the garage, and after all 1000 plus chicks are a 1000 plus chicks!

The boxes were brought to the car and soon filled the boot space to the brim - blessing the fact it was an estate car- when the lady casually stated that there had been a delivery of chicks just that morning so she had put the final few boxes on the rear seats for me – having first covered the seats and boxes with a protective blanket. Arriving home just after midnight, the birds were quickly put away in their new quarters and the boxes were put into – and filled - the freezers in the aviary room. At this point realisation finally dawned that there were far more boxes than freezer space, especially when the further eight boxes on the rear seats were discovered. To cut the story short next day saw the collection of another freezer!!

Raptor Rescue has a very straightforward re-homing policy and does not normally re-home wild injured birds of prey or owls. Occasionally, and exceptionally, when a vet confirms a wild bird cannot be released back as the injuries would mean it would not survive, but where it would have every chance of an acceptable quality of life in captivity, Raptor Rescue will consider re-homing wild injured birds. However, as indicated earlier we more usually rescue or are passed captive bred birds which we will always endeavour to either return to their owner or re-home. Not all birds come into Raptor Rescue but remain with their keeper with Raptor Rescue acting as “go between” to connect the current owner with the potential new home and to facilitate the move.

Raptor Rescue will always seek to ensure that all birds re-homed are placed with competent experienced people and to that aim, we ask anyone wanting to re-home a bird of prey or owl to complete our ‘Application to Re-Home a Bird of Prey’ Form. This form must be completed in full and accompanied by the requested additional information i.e. photos of facilities, copy of certificates etc. The principal objective is to identify a suitable, experienced and permanent home for the bird and while we request potential applicants to identify the type of bird they prefer, there are strict application vetting requirements – our re-homing activity is not a method of obtaining a “cheap” bird or owl. Our aim is to place the right bird with the right new keeper. Each application will go before the Board of Trustees at the next available quarterly meeting for approval and the applicant will be notified of the outcome immediately after the meeting. If successful the details will be added to our list of potential re-homers. If unsuccessful the applicant will be advised of the reason and will have the opportunity to correct any issues. Trustee meetings are usually held in January, April, July and September, with the AGM in October. Once an application has been accepted and a suitable bird is available, the applicant will be contacted to complete the transfer documentation.

Birds re-homed during 2010 include

Redtail	Male	x1
Harris Hawk	Male	x1
Kestrel	Female	x2
European Eagle Owl	Female	x4
Common Buzzard	Male	x1
Bengal Eagle Owl	Male	x1
European Eagle Owl	Male	x2
Harris Hawk	Female	x2
Snowy Owl	Female	x1
African Spotted Owl	Female	x1

Birds Available include

Bengal Eagle Owl	x1
Barn Owl	x 3
Pair of Tawny Owls Wild disabled - (Both with One Eye)	
European Eagle Owl	x3

Malcolm Robbins

Charity News

The Board of Trustees would like to welcome to the following new members:

Jesu Ah'so
Maureen & Michael Brookes
Andrew Charlton
Steven Gould
Sean O'Connor
Mr & Mrs J Robbins
Mrs Melinda Terleske
Mr Chris Worth
Colin & Janet Johnson
Andy Grigg (Cornish Bird of Prey Centre)

Welcome
& Thanks



The Board of Trustees would like to thank the following for their kind Donations:

Pets at Home
Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions
Mrs MacPherson
Mrs Burd
Val Turner

Accredited Rehabilitators

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Andy Grigg of the Cornish Bird of Prey Centre has achieved Accredited Rehabilitators status.

For Sale/Wanted

This is a new section we thought we would trial, if anyone has something for sale or wanted and would like to advertise here, please let me know the item, cost and your contact details.

FALCONRY BOOKS – please contact Ian Taylor at taylor.ian9@gmail.com

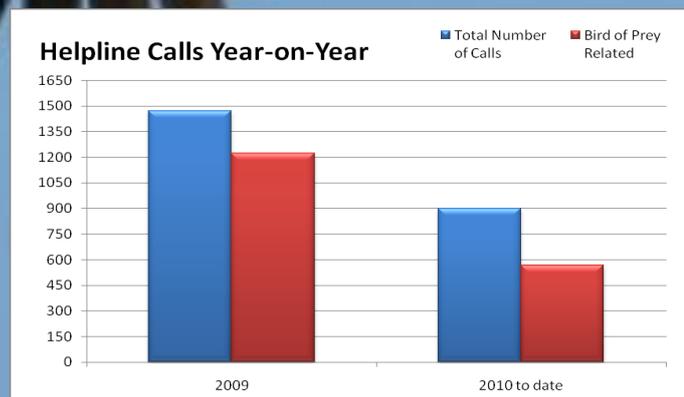
Glasier, Philip *A Hawk in the Hand* Robinson Publishing, London 1990
1st Edition, orig blue covers with dust wrapper, colour and mono photos, 188pp, nr mint. £20

Parry-Jones, Gemima *Falconry Care, Captive Breeding and Conservation* David & Charles, Newton Abbot 1988 1st Edition, orig blue covers with dust wrapper, colour and mono photos, biblo, index, 232pp, v good. £20

Upton, Roger *O for a Falconer's Voice* Memories of the Old Hawking Club. The Crowood Press, Marlborough 1987. 1st Edition, orig brown covers with dust wrapper, many illustrations, appendix, glossary, 208pp, nr mint. £25

Woodford, Michael H *A Manual of Falconry* Updated and revised by Roger Upton A&C Black, London 1987 Rev edition, orig illustrated laminated cover, illustrated, glossary, biblo, index, 210pp, mint. £20

Helpline Update



The helpline continues to receive a high number of calls.

Month	Total Calls	BOP Related
Jan-10	144	130
Feb-10	92	75
Mar-10	98	75
Apr-10	123	87
May-10	99	72
Jun-10	141	79
Jul-10	204	48

North West Wildlife Art Exhibition

The North West Wildlife Art Exhibition takes place each year at Gordale Garden Centre, Wirral, usually over the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. Raptor Rescue were contacted to see if we would like to attend the opening day of the exhibition, take along a couple of birds and do a bit of fund raising.



This year, patrons Steve Lingham and Pollyanna Pickering were in attendance. So Carol and I took our peregrine falcon and barn owl along for the day. There were about six other charities there, so while we did not make a killing on donations, we had a lot of interest (being the only ones with live animals) with lots of people taking away leaflets on our work and membership forms. It also provided a good opportunity

to meet up with our patrons who do an excellent job promoting the Charity.

Pets at Home Donation



Raptor Rescue would like to give a big thanks to Pets at Home for a donation of £5,000 made under their Animal Adoption Scheme.

An application was submitted to the scheme but as we are primarily concerned with the rescue of wild birds of prey, this did not meet their criteria for a donation.

However, when they heard about the increasing number of captive bred birds that we get asked to re-home, they asked us to re-submit the application as they felt that this was something that did fit their criteria. The cheque was presented to Chairman Steve Davidson by the manger of the Warrington Riverside branch on Friday 6th August.

Birding Biker

I would like to share a truly amazing experience with you and I hope you find it interesting. Last night I was looking on the RSPB site to get an update on the osprey at Glaslyn, Porthmadog. On their blog they mentioned a guy who had visited the reserve called Garry Prescott. He is a special needs teacher visiting as many reserves as possible, with an RSPB "Robin" collection box on the front of the bike and to try and beat a yearly bird count of 250.

I thought no more about it and didn't even mention it to my wife Marg. We had just finished lunch when the front door bell went, must be a stranger as anyone that knows us comes to the back door (etiquette I learned when working for Lord Derby!!!!). On opening the door there stood a chap wearing a high vis vest and a cycling helmet (amongst other normal apparel) he said he was lost and how did he get across the "big white bridge" as he was trying to get to the RSPB reserve at Inner Marsh Farm, Burton, Wirral. My immediate response was "Are you the chap with the "Robin" on his bike? Yes he was! Inviting him to come around the back way with his bike we then spent the next two hours chatting about his adventure. I told him of my connection with Raptor Rescue, and he had heard about us, and I showed him my birds.



Steve on the left, Garry on the right

Even more coincidences came out, how he had worked on Wirral at one time and used to visit New Brighton (where I used to live) to see Mediterranean Gulls.

With Garry suitably refreshed and his water bottle filled he went on his way but not before giving him Raptor Rescue info pack a RR pin badge and a Fluffy Owl to go alongside the "Robin" on the front of his bike (see picture). Garry promised to come back when he re-visits the area in November. He was blown away by my opening remark "Are you the chap with the Robin on your bike" and thinks he might use that as the title for the book he plans to write on his adventures. You can follow his progress on his web site www.bikingbirder2010.blogspot.com this is the blog but from there you can get on the main site which gives you his route plan, have a look he may be coming to a reserve near you.

Final note if you don't believe in fate, Garry spent last night at Llandegla, at the Black Grouse reserve, on telling my son this story he told me that he had spent the day mountain biking at Llandegla! A truly amazing Life Experience I hope you don't mind me sharing it with you.

Steve Dewsnap

The Owl and the Pussy Cat

A baby tawny owl had a luck escape when it fell from its nest at Paignton Zoo, Devon and ended up face to face with Indu, an Asiatic lioness. It stayed in the lion enclosure for three days before finally getting to safety.

From BBC news – 25.03.10



'Oldest' osprey

The UK's oldest known breeding female osprey has returned to the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Loch of the Lowes reserve, Scotland for the 20th consecutive year after completing a 3,000 mile migration from West Africa.

At an estimated 25 years old, it has reached three times the average lifespan of an osprey, and is known to have laid 55 eggs, 46 of which hatched into chicks that left the nest.

**And please don't forget the AGM on 24th October 2010.
Full details can be found on the enclosed sheets.
The Trustees would be happy to see you there.**

Overseas news

Brownie

Australian rehabbers and Raptor Rescue members, John and Wendy Lawrence live in the countryside, 5km from the small town of Alstonville in Northern New South Wales - within 20 minutes drive of the Pacific Ocean and about 35 minutes from Byron Bay which is a very popular holiday destination, especially for backpackers from England! They have 5 acres of land on which they have a small horticultural nursery. Out of the 24 diurnal species of raptors in Australia they have had 16 species come into their care and, of the 6 nocturnal species, they have had Boobooks and Barn owls. Below is their report.



On 13th November 2003, I received a phone call from the hotline of the wildlife rescue organisation I belong to. A man had called in saying one of his dogs had a nestling hawk in its mouth. The dog had found it somewhere along a road and brought it to him. Fortunately, the bird was uninjured and, had I been able to find the nest, would have immediately tried to return it. Sadly, no one knew about one in that area or had seen hawks flying around. So, Brownie, as she was named many months later, came into care and was re-classified as a Brown Falcon. Brown Falcons are medium-sized falcons, solitary or loosely gregarious and occur throughout mainland Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea.

I soft-release all the young birds that come into care. The majority do come back for support feeding for periods of between a few days/weeks to a few months, with the exception of a Wedgetail Eagle that returned for eight months. I released Brownie in mid December. Nine days later she was back and stayed around for about four months.

In February she made her first kill that we know about. She got a rabbit kitten in between the rows of macadamia nut trees that border our property. I watched as she started eating. It wasn't long before a Whistling Kite flew down and landed very close to her. Brownie tried to hop away, dragging the kitten. The kite then noticed me and flew off. I retreated up the paddock – delighted that Brownie was proving herself capable of surviving on her own especially as I had been steadily reducing the amount and frequency of the food I gave her.

We have also seen Brownie comically pursuing crickets and grasshoppers on foot and once she had an enormous stick insect which stuck out either side of her mouth. Not long after her release my husband saw her prancing around a metre long venomous Red Bellied Black snake which soon disappeared into some thick grass. Brown Falcons eat reptiles (including snakes), mammals, amphibians, arthropods and carrion.

For the last six years plus, we have thoroughly enjoyed her sporadic visits back here. She has often been away for well over a month. We always know when she is returning as she makes numerous loud "caark" calls as she flies in. And she is, without fail, always pursued by a contingent of very agitated Magpies and Noisy Miners.

On 21st October 2004, when Brownie had been free for 10 months, we saw her being pursued by a very raucous, pale Brown Falcon on her return here late in the afternoon. She appeared quite intimidated by this bird and, after being chased up the paddock, hid in some campher laurel trees near our property whilst he pale falcon flew overhead, screeching furiously. Brownie did not re-appear until nearly twenty minutes after the falcon had flown off. But we heard the screeching again at dawn the following morning.



A few days later Brownie returned, once again pursued by the falcon. This continued a couple more times and then on 31st October, Brownie returned on her own and perched out in the open for the first time since the falcon had been around. We haven't seen the pale falcon again.

Brownie enjoys creating havoc with a flock of Galahs which live around here. She sometimes dive bombs them whilst they are feeding on the ground in the paddock. This makes them scatter rapidly and take to the air, and then, as they wheel, dive and climb as a flock, Brownie is, amazingly, in unison with them.

A few years ago she came back from being away for 35 days and had an injured leg. She was unable to stand on it. For quite some days she would spend hours lying on top of the chimney or on the grass. She stayed around here for over four months before she again took off for a lengthy absence. I did wonder, on this occasion, whether I might need to try and catch her to take her to the vet if her leg got worse.



Fortunately this was not necessary - she is a completely free bird. I have not touched her since a few weeks before her release in 2003 when I moved her from the 5metre aviary into the 24metre flight aviary. But we do have quite a few of her feathers that she has moulted over the years! On another occasion she returned from a few weeks away and had one closed eye. She was very, very hungry on this occasion. The eye took about two weeks to heal and then she was off again.

I am not sure what the average lifespan of a Brown Falcon is, but I know of one banded by the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme in 1982 which was re-captured after almost 18 years. So we hope we may have the pleasure of watching Brownie soar and glide overhead as well as her antics on the ground for many years yet.

From METRO UK – 16.03.09

Hungry eagle gobbles up a starling

These photographs show the moment a starling was plucked from the sky by a hungry bald eagle.



The tiny bird flies on, apparently unaware, as the giant predator locks its gaze on its prey and then closes in. Within seconds, the eagle, which can reach speeds up to 70kph (45mph), is so close its beak almost grazes the tail of its target.



The bird of prey closes in, lifts its talons and snatches its meal. Over ten days at least 50 starlings getting caught and eaten by various eagles. It would happen anywhere from 100 to 500 feet in the air.

Photographer Rob Palmer captured the images on a ranch in Colorado.

PATRONS:

Steve Lingham - Chris Packham - Pollyanna Pickering

Honorary President: Mr Bryan Paterson

Honorary Vice President: Mr Robert Haddon

TRUSTEES

Steve Davidson - Chairman - Tel: 01925 726704 – contact for any issues relating to Raptor Rescue, any rehabbing issue, wanting to become a rehabber, rehabber equipment, newsletter articles.

Malcolm Robbins - Vice Chairman - Tel: 07734 845288 - contact for any issues relating to Raptor Rescue in the Chairman's absence, any issues relating to external magazine articles, press releases or TV related activities, re-homing birds of prey.

Carol Davidson - Treasurer - Tel: 01925 726704 – contact for any financial issues, donations, membership payments, and first aid equipment.

Lesley Smith, Jenny Morgan – National Helpline & Secretaries - Tel: 01785 850379 – contact for any issues relating to the National Help Line, to order publications, to request attendance at events.

Steve Dewsnap - Stock Control - Tel: 01244 813127 – contact for any issues relating to sales goods.

Andy Craven – IT Communication Coordinator - Tel: 07879 007007 – any issues relating to the website or for links to the website.

Ian Taylor – Trustee – Tel: 01298 70959 - any issues relating to the Rehabbers Handbook and Code of Practice.

Daniel Goldsmith – Trustee – Tel: 07881 826811 – Rehabilitator Coordinator, contact for applications to become a rehabilitator.

Membership Secretary: Barbara Turner, 31 Touches Meadow, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1PA, Tel: 01460 64664 – contact for membership and membership renewals.

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.

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