



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

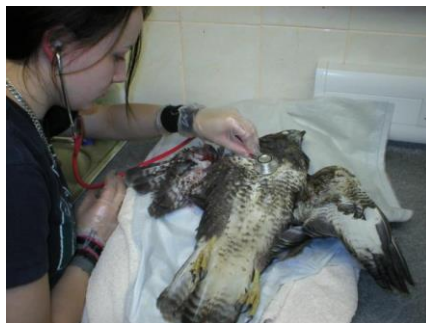
Registered Charity No. 283733

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

Annual Report 2010



Rescue



Rehabilitate



Release

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.

Raptor Rescue is a Registered Charity No. 283733

As Patron I am very pleased to have been asked to write a foreword to this, Raptor Rescue's first annual report.

I am delighted to see Raptor Rescue continuing to gain in recognition for the work they do. The support they provide to rehabilitators and the advice and contacts provided to the public are invaluable. It is also heartening to see strong support from many different sources in the form of donations and contributions. As a charity we are heavily reliant on the generosity of our supporters and I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard throughout the year in encouraging donations. I very much enjoyed attending the Wildlife Awareness day at the National Exhibition of Wildlife Art at Gordale Garden Centre, and seeing the interest shown by visitors to that event - not only to the beautiful owls on display- but also to the information boards about Raptor Rescue.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Steve Davidson for all his continuing hard work as chairman, and of course all the committee members who provide such invaluable support.

My thanks and admiration goes to all the rehabilitators who work hands on to rescue and re-release injured and orphaned birds of prey. I know from my own 15 years running a raptor rehabilitation sanctuary how demanding and exhausting – but ultimately rewarding - the work can be. It is thanks to your dedication that so many of these magnificent birds can once again fly free.

I look forward to 2011 as a year in which Raptor Rescue gains even greater recognition and support



Pollyanna Pickering - Patron

Welcome to the Raptor Rescue Annual Report 2010. This report details the charities activities throughout the year, including:

- Raptor Rescue Goes Forth
- Finances
- Membership Statistics
- Events Attended
- National Helpline Statistics 2010
- Rehoming Statistics
- Rehabilitators Statistics
- Annual Survey



While Raptor Rescue is the leading Charity in the UK for the **Rescue**, **Rehabilitation** and **Release** of sick and injured wild birds of prey and owls, it is run by volunteers who give up an extraordinary amount of their time. I would like to start this report with a big thank you to all the trustees, rehabilitators and members for all their hard work and support making Raptor Rescue the success it is today.

Steve Davidson - Chairman

Raptor Rescue Goes Forth

The *Raptor Rescue Rehabilitation Handbook* was brought up to date in view of the changes necessitated by the separate licensing units for England, Scotland and Wales as well as the changes to the general licenses for those species included on Schedule 4. The handbook is now available to everyone via our web site www.raptorrescue.org.uk

We have met with representatives from Animal Health (Defra), The Scottish Government, The Welsh Assembly Government, The Scottish SPCA and the National Wildlife Crime Unit. We took the opportunity to highlight what our rehabilitators do, our National Help line and the



Handbook. All were pleased that we had contacted them and were impressed with the handbook to the extent that they ALL endorsed it and allowed us to include them in the introduction.



As a result of those meetings Raptor Rescue is now a member of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife crime (PAW), the Animal Welfare Network Wales and receive regular emails regarding any changes that may affect wildlife or the environment in Scotland. We will also be advised and asked to comment on any changes to the legislation in all three countries.



In conjunction with the Royal Veterinary College, a Wildlife Information Network (WIN) was set up in 1992. The aims of which is to gather wildlife health and management information from diverse and fragmented sources in order to make it quickly available to professionals fighting to conserve healthy wild animal populations. The WIN website offers an extensive electronic library with the complete text of important manuals, guidelines and wildlife regulations. Access is available to field biologists, vets, veterinary nurses, animal carers and wildlife rehabilitators. We have submitted our handbook and they will add it to their database with due credits to Raptor Rescue.

We have been asked by DEFRA Animal Health Department and the Welsh Assembly Government to help with training, specifically in identifying an imprinted bird and handling techniques for their wildlife inspectors. This is being looked into and we hope to be able to offer such training during 2011.

WIN is currently looking into the possibility of producing a module 'Birds of Prey: Health and Management'. They have asked if we wish to have an input but this will depend on our available resources. Two Trustees attended the Irish Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference and gave a presentation about Raptor Rescue. The conference was attended by vets, veterinary nurses, rehabilitators, Irish SPCA, Wildlife Rangers and Police.

One of our main concerns is how to finance the charity in the future. We supply our Accredited Rehabilitators with portable hacking aviaries, hospital cages, heat pads etc and all rehabilitators with first aid items and carrying boxes. Our National Help & Advice line is a great success but needs to be financed each year as does expenses incurred in attending meetings with other organisations. 22% of our income currently comes from membership subscriptions and 45% from donations. If we can increase our membership this will generate more income and perhaps open up additional opportunities for corporate donations.

The future success of Raptor Rescue is dependent on the input from its members. Some are involved in rehabilitation, fund raising or serving as a trustee (some even undertake all three!!). There are many ways in which individual members can assist and we need you to come forward to discuss what you can offer. Perhaps you have a specific background e.g. sales, marketing, IT, media to name but a few. Perhaps your employer donates to charity work and you can help by identifying the person we should contact. If you feel that you can help in any way please contact the Chairman or one of the trustees.

Ian Taylor - Trustee

Finances

Statement of Accounts and Treasurers Report for the Year Ending 31 August 2010

These accounts have been prepared on the 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.

I can verify that the charity has no outstanding liabilities or any charge over its assets. The central fund remains unrestricted and expendable at the discretion of the Trustees.

Our income for the year was twelve thousand, six hundred, fifty four pounds and sixteen pence (£12,654.16), this is an increase of three thousand, three hundred, eighty eight pounds and thirteen pence (£3,388.13) on last year, and we have received a number of large donations which total seven thousand, nine hundred, twenty four pounds and ninety nine pence (£7,924.99). Our total expenditure for the year amounted to eight thousand, three hundred, fifteen pounds and seventy one pence (£8,315.71). This is seven hundred and forty six pounds and thirty seven pence (£746.37) less than the previous year.

We received a very kind donation of £5,000 from Pets at Home for the purchase of a rescue hospital and aviaries for holding captive bred birds prior to rehoming, which will be purchased in 2010/2011.

The largest increase in expenditure has been for rehabilitation equipment and first aid supplies, mileage for meetings such as meeting Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly and postage of rehab equipment, leaflets and first aid supplies to rehabilitators and centres. However, we have saved funds on vet bills, new hack aviaries and tent and van hire at shows.

Prepared under Section 42.3 of the Charities Act 1993 for acceptance at 2010 AGM and have been independently examined 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 3 October 2010.

I would like to acknowledge our fund raisers and rehabilitators for their hard work and devotion to Raptor Rescue and thanks to our members for their continued support.

Membership Statistics

As with any organisation, membership has its ups and downs. 2010 saw 19 new members joining Raptor Rescue, but sadly five left us. Our total membership as at end of January 2011 stands at 158.

Carol Davidson – Treasurer

Events Attended

2010 saw Raptor Rescue attending a wide range of events throughout the country in order to publicise the Charity's work and raise much needed funds. Events attended included Royden Park and Wirral Country Park, the Falconry Fair at Chetwynd Park, Burghley Show, St.Bridgete's Fete West Kirby, Grantham Hospice Fun Day, the North West Wildlife Art Exhibition at Gordale Garden Centre, Wirral, Wirral Allotments Show at Birkenhead, Chatsworth Country Show and Rainford Farmers Market.

Raptor Rescue also attended the first Irish Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference held in Drogheda, Co.Louth. The event was organised by Irish Wildlife Matters, who wanted to set up a trust based on how Raptor Rescue operates, but for all Irish wildlife.

Raptor Rescue National Help Line 2010

The National Help line, this year sponsored by **Exotic Direct**, has taken a total of 1531 calls over the year and although the majority relate to raptors and owls requiring help we also get (14%) asked if we help chickens, rabbits, cats and even a goldfish!! Another 8% of the calls are asking for information about the charity and 20% are duplicate or follow up calls. Only 2% of callers fail to leave a contact number.

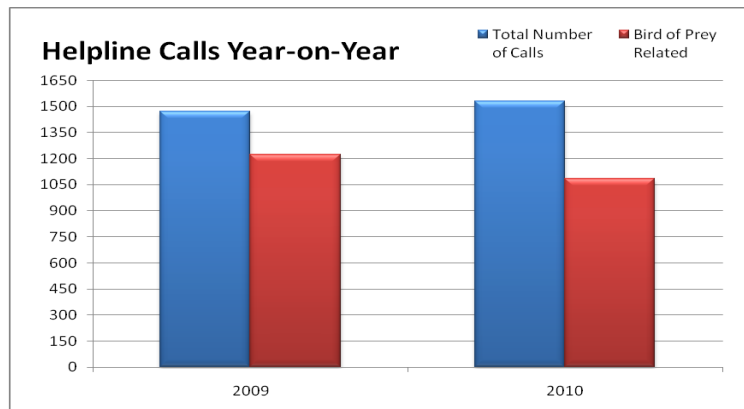
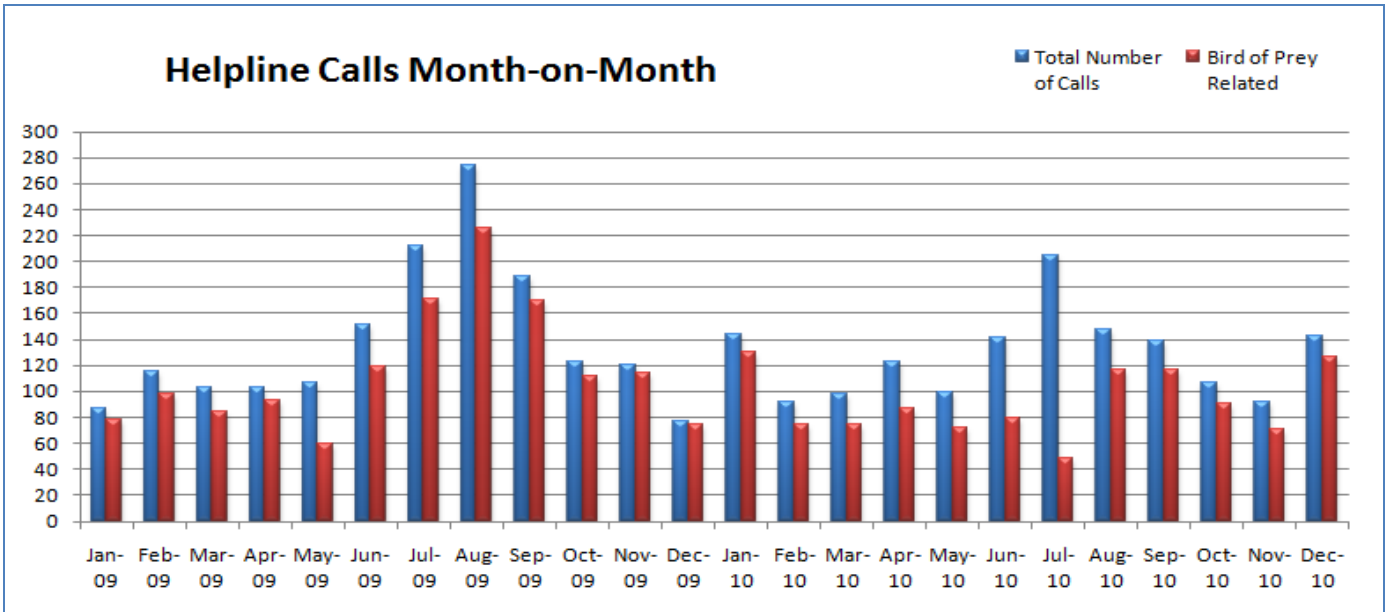
Analysis of the calls received over the past year shows that 48% related to wild bird rescue and a further 8% to captive bred birds. Some of those calls relating to captive bred birds were asking if we would re-home birds for various reasons and although not one of our main aims, we cannot be seen to ignore such calls. We have now set up a rehoming 'service' to match up birds with new homes; see the separate report. This is working well and **Pets at Home** have given us some financial help towards this project.



Some callers tell us that it is a specific species of raptor but when the rehabilitator sees the bird it is not always what they expect. A couple of examples are a Buzzard that turned out to be a pheasant and a Bird of Prey turned out to be a pigeon. We have also received calls about a Short eared Owl sitting on a bird table in Stirling and a Bald Eagle by the road side in Staffordshire one Saturday night! An Eagle in Yorkshire stealing washing and another in Staffordshire sitting on a fence.

We had a call from a lady in the UK, whose husband had found a Pell's Fishing Owl in Liberia (Africa) and we were able to help by giving her details of a rehabilitator in South Africa. Some of the callers just require advice and it is great that Leslie and Jenny are able to help without having to call a rehabilitator.

Ian Taylor - Trustee



Rehoming Statistics

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 the birds can, and do, 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.

Raptor Rescue has a very straightforward re-homing policy and does not normally re-home wild injured birds of prey or owls that come through the rescue and rehabilitation process. 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. We are sometimes asked to re-home wild disabled birds that have been re-homed by other wildlife rescue organisations and the keeper now wishes to relinquish the bird.

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.

Birds re-homed during 2010/11 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
Barn Owl	Unknown	x1
Kestrel	Female	x1
Pair Tawny Owls	Wild Disabled	



Amber the European Eagle Owl re-homed to Edinburgh Zoo in 2010.

Amber is doing well and is currently being socialised around the park to get her used to crowds. Our presentations team hope to use her in their shows later on in the year.

Lynda Burrill - Royal Zoological Society of Scotland Edinburgh Zoo

Malcolm Robbins – Rehoming Coordinator

Rehabilitators Statistics

Over the years a growing number of **Raptor Rescue** rehabilitator members have attained Accredited Rehabilitator Status.

This means that members of the public can be assured that any injured bird taken into care by a **Raptor Rescue Accredited Rehabilitator** will receive the best of attention from someone with suitable experience and facilities to care for the casualty in a proper and lawful manner.

Accredited Rehabilitator Status allows rehabilitators to apply to **Raptor Rescue** for assistance with specialised items aimed directly towards raptor rehabilitation and care, such as travelling boxes, catch nets, heat pads, hospital units and hacking aviaries.

Minimum requirements for accreditation are:

- A Transport Box
- An Examination / Treatment area
- An Intensive care unit / hospital cage
- A Recovery / seclusion aviary
- A Drugs, medicine cupboard / box
- A Fluid replacement kit
- General husbandry equipment
- Accurate and detailed records

When an application is accepted, the rehabilitator will receive a welcome letter with copy of accredited certificate dated up to 31st March in the following year. Also a copy of the **Raptor Rescue** 'Rehabilitation Handbook, including the Code of Practice' and their contact details added to the National Help line list of accredited rehabilitators.

If the Board of Trustees is unable to accept the application then the applicant will be notified and advised of the reason. If appropriate, they can re-apply when they have addressed any issues that the Trustees raised.

Currently the Raptor Rescue rehabilitators list consists of ten Accredited Rehabilitators, and twenty nine Rehabilitators. Raptor Rescue also has access to other rehabilitators / rescue centres that are contacts of Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre who run the Raptor Rescue Helpline.

Survey Results – 1st September 2008 to 31st December 2009.

This year of the 40 rehabilitators sent survey forms, we received returns from 26 (65%) of our rehabilitators, of which 6 were nil returns and four were confirming they were no longer rehabilitating.

We handled a total of 565 birds, including: Red Kite (11) - Sparrowhawk (56) - Goshawk (1) - Buzzard (130) - Kestrel (97) - Osprey (1) - Marsh Harrier (1) - Hen Harrier (1) - Hobby (4) - Peregrine (10) - Barn Owl (77) - Little Owl (32) - Tawny Owl (142) - Short-eared Owl (2)

Of the 565 birds:

310 were adult birds, 192 were immature, 63 were un-known, 120 were male, 125 were female and 320 could not be identified.

The 565 birds were received from the following sources:

62 were from vets, 7 from police, 123 from RSPCA/SSPCA, 14 from other rehabilitators and 359 from members of the public.

Injuries reported were:

Natural injury 84, Unnatural injury 131, RTA 160, abandoned 55, trapped 32, Domestic pet 7, Poison 2 and other 94



Treatment consisted of:

Stabilisation (no vet required) 342, minor (injections/simple fracture) 166, major (operation) 44 and temporary accommodation 13.

Outcomes:

255 were released to the wild, 164 were euthanised, 112 died, 19 were still in care at time of survey, 4 were referred to other rehabilitator, 7 were re-homed and 5 were returned to their owner.

We returned 53% of wild casualties back to the wild.

In this survey we handled 7 non-native species including a Booted Eagle, Ural Owl, Bengal Eagle Owl, Lanner Falcon and three European Eagle Owls.

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

A special thanks to Trustee and Survey Coordinator Sharon Mathews for compiling the 2008/09 Survey.



Sharon Mathews - Survey Coordinator



Rescue



Rehabilitate



Release



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733