



**RAPTOR  
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

The UK's leading specialist Bird of Prey & Owl rehabilitation organisation dedicated to ensuring all sick and injured birds of prey are cared for by qualified people and wherever possible released back into the wild.

# Annual Report 2013



**Rescue**



**Rehabilitate**



**Release**

**National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609**

**Online [www.raptorrescue.org.uk](http://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.

I would like to welcome you to this Annual Report and first of all to recognise and thank all the trustees, rehabilitators, members and supporters for all their continuing hard work and endeavours. It is due totally to their unceasing contributions that Raptor Rescue remains the leading Charity in the UK for the **Rescue**, **Rehabilitation** and **Release** of sick and injured wild birds of prey and owls.



The continuance of Raptor Rescue in whatever format remains possible only by the unstinting efforts of a relatively small number of committed souls - I think I am probably correct in using the word committed in both senses!

As always, we rely heavily on the hard work of the various Rehabilitators and helpers at the sharp end who take care of the birds - sadly I cannot name them all but maybe that is something for future newsletters to identify and thank our rehabilitators in the regions. My thanks as always to my fellow Trustees - we have had some resignations over the year and, whilst I would thank the former Trustees (Daniel, Sharon and Ray), I cannot not recognise the sterling work of the remaining Trustees to pick up the baton and to keep running! A big thank you to our loyal members who continue through their support to make everything possible. I salute you - but please help spread the word and persuade others to join!

### **The Future**

The loss of three Trustees and the knowledge Andy will soon be leaving, caused us to call into question the future of RR and the activities we could continue with such a small band of willing people. Offers of assistance have come in to organise a supporters group in Herts and Natalie Taylor and Christine Robbins have been press ganged - sorry- offered to assist but the issue will always be we are volunteers with other lives and activities and can do only so much for RR.

**Malcolm Robbins - Chairman**

### **Finances**

The 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.

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.

Income for the year 2012/2013 was Eight Thousand pounds and Fifty Six Pence (£8,056), an increase of Five Hundred Pounds and Six pence (£506) over the same period the last year.

Total Expenditure was Six Thousand Eight Hundred pounds and Fifty Eight pence (£6,858); a decrease of Seven Hundred and Four pence (£704) over last year.

Raptor Rescue participated in a Facebook Competition organised by Animal Friends Insurance early this year and won One Thousand and Five Hundred Pounds (£1,500).

Raptor Rescue donated One Thousand Pounds £1,000 to Gentleshaw Birds of Prey for manning the National Helpline.

During the year, Marquee and Roller Banners were bought at a cost of Seven Hundred and Ninety Three Pounds (£793) and Five Hundred and Eighty Seven (£587) respectively. Both were financed from the money won through the Facebook Competition organised by Animal Friends Insurance.

There were unauthorised direct debits by 1&1 Ltd and Sure Wise Ltd from the Deposit Account resulting to an amount of One Hundred pounds and Sixty Three pence (£163) taken. Our bankers

(Santander) quickly refunded these amounts. The Charity also received and assurance from the Bank that this issue will not happen again.

During the year, Raptor Rescue has introduced a Grant system to support rehabilitation and similar projects that comply with the Charity's aims. Details and application forms can be obtained from the Treasurer. The Accounts were prepared under Section 42.3a of the Charities Act 1993 for acceptance at 2013 AGM. 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 21st October, 2013. I would like to acknowledge our Fundraisers and Rehabilitators for their hard work and devotion to Raptor Rescue and thanks to our members for their continued support.

Oscar Godson - Treasurer

### Membership

Membership seems to be holding up in the face of the economic climate but is an area we need to continually monitor and take all avenues to increase.

### Events

Whilst we remain extremely grateful to Steve and Marge Dewsnap for their incredible consistent contribution with their events; to Gentleshaw for their annual Fun Day; to Ian Taylor for his talks etc., we still suffer from the basic problem that currently we have insufficient trustees/members with birds available for shows and displays.

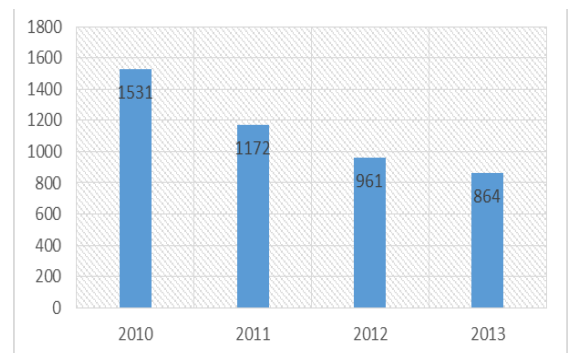
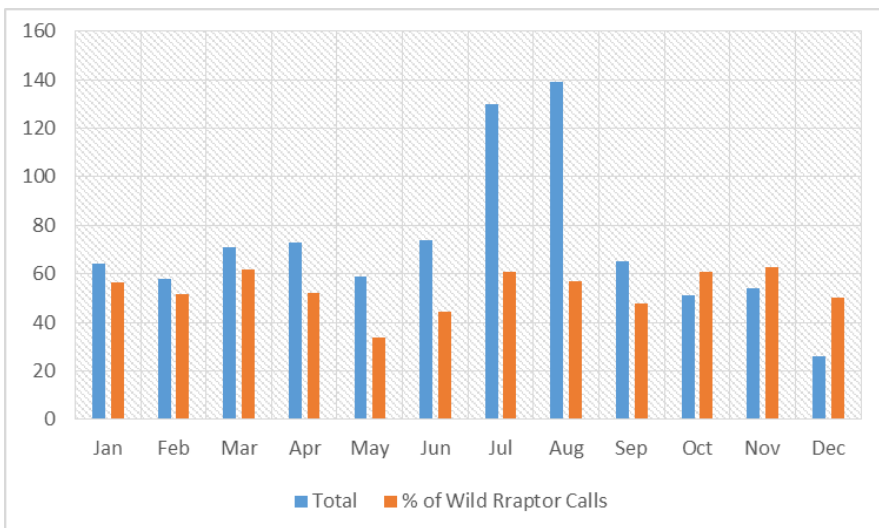
We remain in the regrettable position as last year of having to turn down fund raising invitations. A continuing priority therefore will be to review Show attendance to ensure we maintain a high profile for RR.

### National Help Line 2013

The National Help Line continues to be sponsored by **Exotic Direct**, and we thank them for their continued support.

2013 Review - The Helpline continues to be the flagship activity and the one in which we should take great pride. We are sure so many people are grateful to hear the dulcet tones of the Gentleshaw team and the resultant assistance that is provided. It was interesting to see that we are receiving requests for advice and assistance from Saudi Arabia, just as it is to learn that everyone in Warrington contacts Raptor Rescue for any creature, big or small, that is in distress, or so Lesley tells us. We hope that we will retain the services of Gentleshaw for our helpline.

The help line has took a total of 864 calls over the year, the majority relating to raptors and owls requiring help.





## Rehoming

We still receive requests to rehome birds for a whole host of reasons, death in family, window tax, financial downsizing, and have been looking to put keepers in direct contact with potential new homes rather than take birds in until a home is found. We still take birds in as appropriate.

## Survey Results – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

This year, of the 27 rehabilitators sent survey forms, we received returns from 12 (44.4%) of which 4 were nil returns.

**We handled a total of 163 wild birds, which included:** Kestrel (18) - Peregrine (6) – Hobby (1) - Red Kite (1) – Sparrowhawk (41) – Buzzard (32) – Barn Owl (12) - Little Owl (11) - Tawny Owl (41).

**Of the 163 birds:** 125 were adult birds, 38 were immature, 44 were male, 65 were female and 54 could not be identified.

**Of the above, birds were received from the following sources:** Vet 23, Police 3, RSPCA/SSPCA 39, Other Rehabber 4, Members of the public 94.

**Injuries reported were:** RTA 53, Abandoned 10, Trapped 10 and Other 90.

**Treatment consisted of:** Stabilisation (no vet required) 69, Minor (injections/simple fracture) 46, Major (operation) 48.

**Outcomes:** Released to the wild 77, Euthanised 54, Died 29, and retained at time of survey 3.

## We returned 47% of wild casualties back to the wild.

Under the injury category 'Other' the following were recorded: window stun, shoulder, eye, neck, tricho, wing, pelvic limb, dislocated knee, thin, blind, humorous, vent, legs, frounce, caught on fishing line, shot, flown into something, attacked by Sparrowhawk, air sack injury, dead on arrival, starvation, malnourished, broken leg, heat exhaustion, concussed, broken wing, weak, hit window, severe head trauma, dehydrated, emaciated, wing missing, bumble foot and severe lice.

Raptor Rescue also handled 12 captive breed birds, which included: 4 Barn Owls, 2 Kestrel, 1 Peregrine, 1 Goshawk, 1 Red-tailed Hawk and 3 Harris Hawks.

Of the above, 6 birds were returned to their owners, 3 birds were rehomed, 1 bird died, 1 bird was referred to another rehabilitator and 1 bird was referred to a professional falconer.

**N.B.** All poisonings are reported to the Police Wildlife Officer and the RSPB.

A full survey report was compiled and circulated to all members with the May 2014 Newsletter.

**Animal Health** - it seems strange but pleasing to be reporting, after opening the year with a moan about the effects of the Animal Health refusal to provide A10 certificates for wild disabled birds, that following some continuous lobbying by Hawk Board and others - including RR- that there has been a change of direction -watch this space to see how the tale develops - We will be making two applications to test the new situation.

**External Bodies** – We continue to maintain relationships with external bodies, including Animal Health, RSPCA, SSPCA, Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime, British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, etc.

