



**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 Survey Report

For 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

**Raptor Rescue** has conducted an annual survey each year since 1990 to collate details of the birds treated throughout the UK. All our rehabilitators are asked to maintain detailed records of the casualties they handle and complete an annual survey return. These details are compiled into a yearly report and we are now working on compiling all the data year-on-year. This is proving to be a big undertaking as different people have administered the survey in different formats, recording slightly different data. However, this has now been standardised and will not change whoever administers the survey.

For a number of years now the annual survey has followed the **Raptor Rescue** financial year of September to August. As of September 2009, we changed this to a calendar year and linked it into the Accredited Rehabilitator System by making it a requirement that all accredited rehabilitators complete the annual survey in order to keep their accreditation. Again, this has been done to try and standardise the survey.

Typically, in a year **Raptor Rescue** rehabilitators handle between 400 - 500 wild bird of prey casualties including: Red Kite, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Hobby, Peregrine, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl.

Of the above, each year approximately (50%) will be re-released back to the wild, (23%) will die from their injuries, (25%) will be humanely euthanised due to the severity of their injuries, (2%) will be re-homed because they would not survive in the wild but will have a good quality of life in captivity.

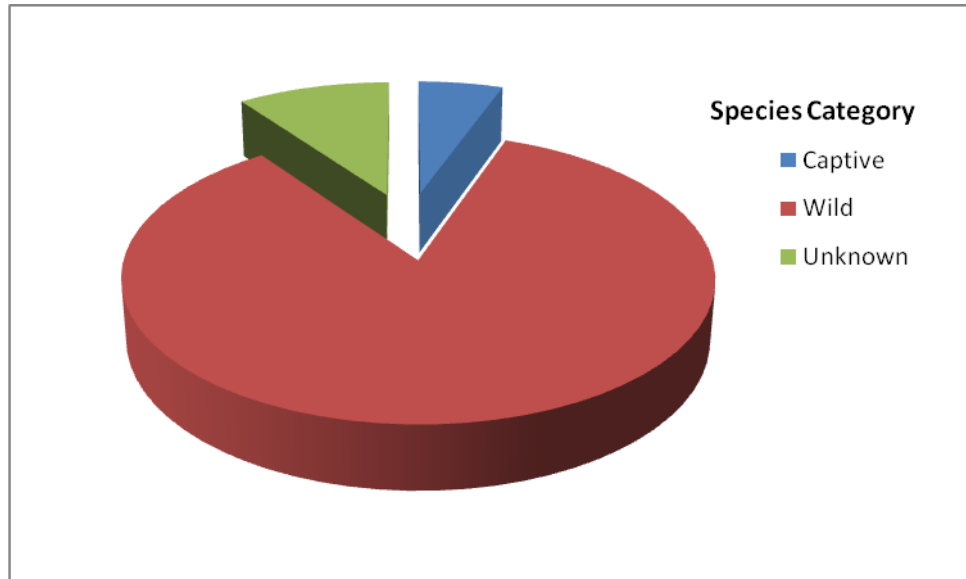
**Raptor Rescue** rehabilitators are also called upon to take in captive bred birds of prey that have either been lost or had escaped from their owners. Some of these birds require treatment but most just have temporary accommodation before being returned to their owner or re-homed.

The annual survey results are important data to assess the success of rehabilitation programmes and treatment regimes, and can also be compared with other data relating to Birds of Prey, e.g. the British Trust for Ornithology bird ringing statistics. Looking forward, **Raptor Rescue** hope to get all organisations involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of birds of prey to supply their records in order to build a more accurate picture of rehabilitation throughout the British Isles.

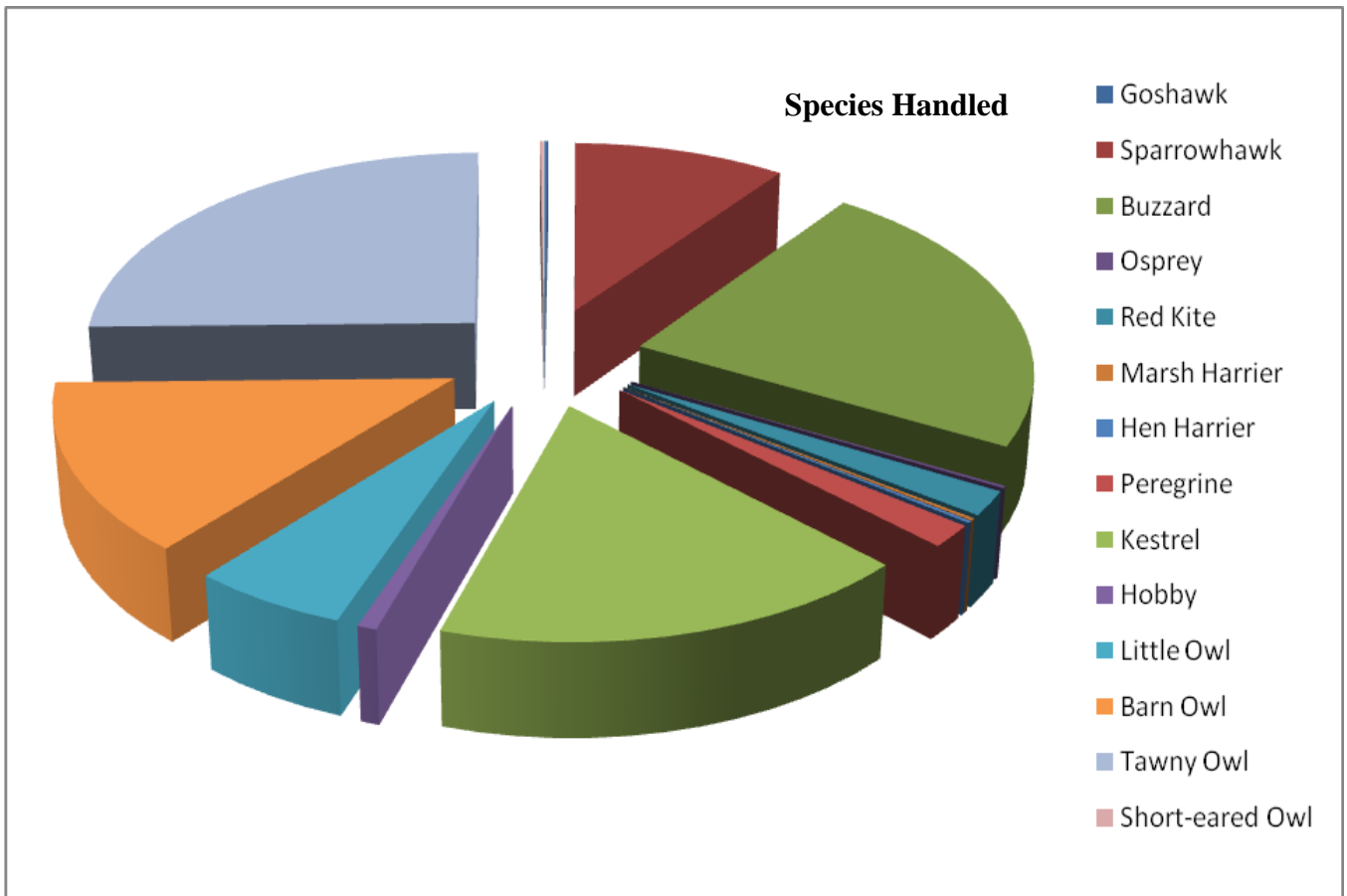
## Survey Results September 2008 to December 2009.

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, of those 478 were wild birds, 37 captive bred birds and 56 were not identified as either wild or captive bred. Of the 565 birds handled, the outcome of 19 that were still in care at the time of the survey was unknown.

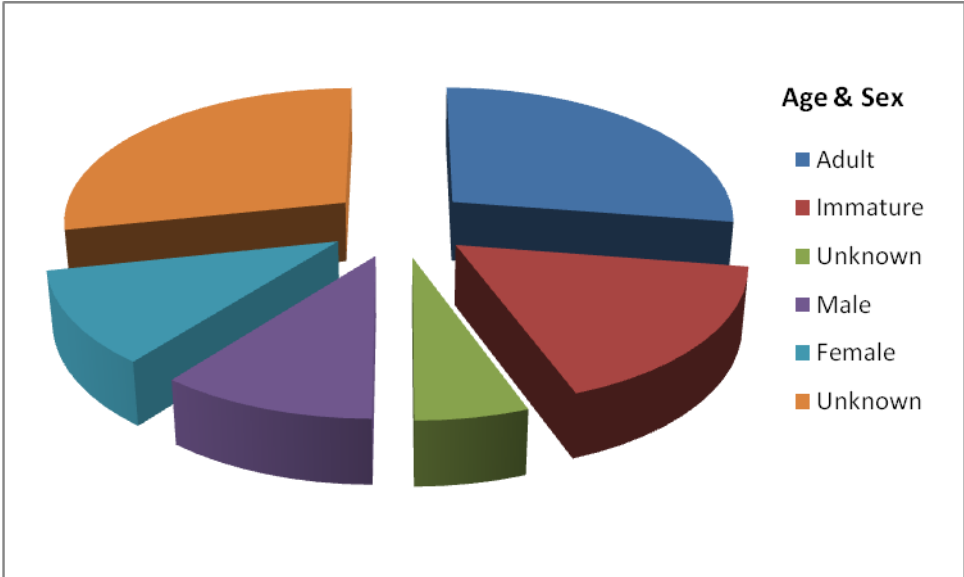


The numbers for each species are: Red Kite (11) - Sparrowhawk (56) - Goshawk (1) - Buzzard (130) - Kestrel (97) - Osprey (1) - Marsh Harrier (1) - Hen Harrier (1) - Hobby (4) - Peregrine (10) - Barn Owl (77) - Little Owl (32) - Tawny Owl (142) - Short-eared Owl (2)



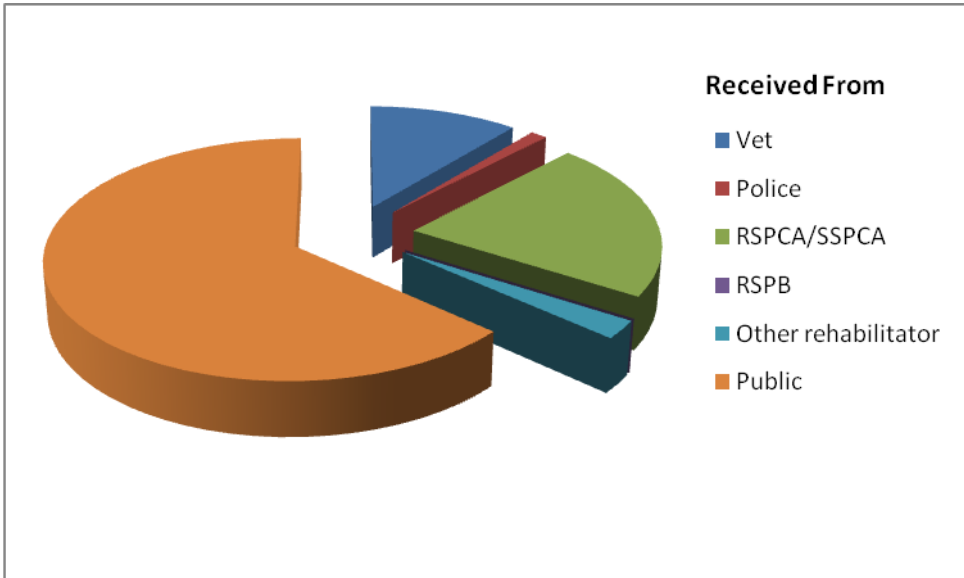
**Of the 565 birds:**

310 were adult birds  
192 were immature  
63 were unknown  
120 were male  
125 were female  
320 could not be identified.



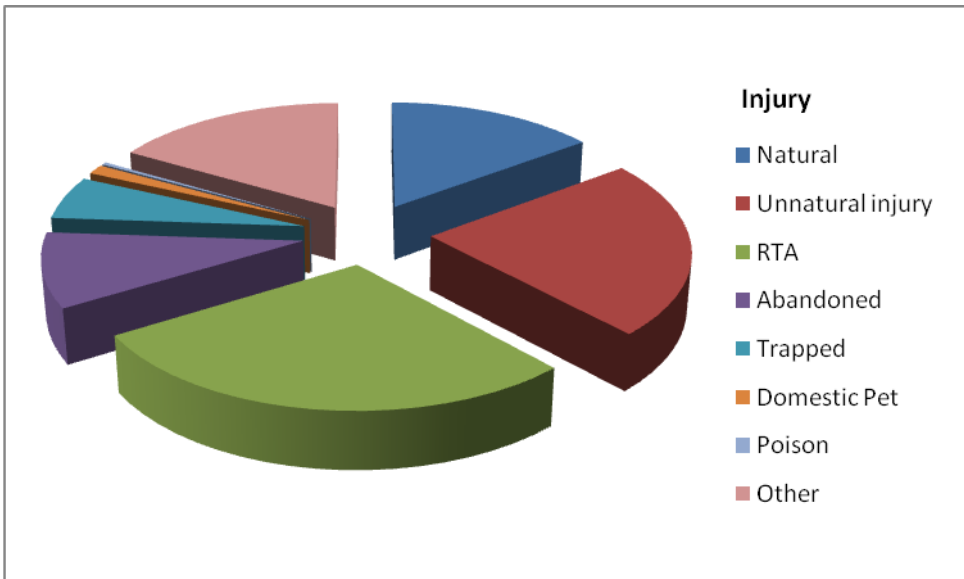
**Of the above, birds were received from the following sources:**

Vet 62  
Police 7  
RSPCA/SSPCA 123  
Other Rehabber 14  
Member of the public 359

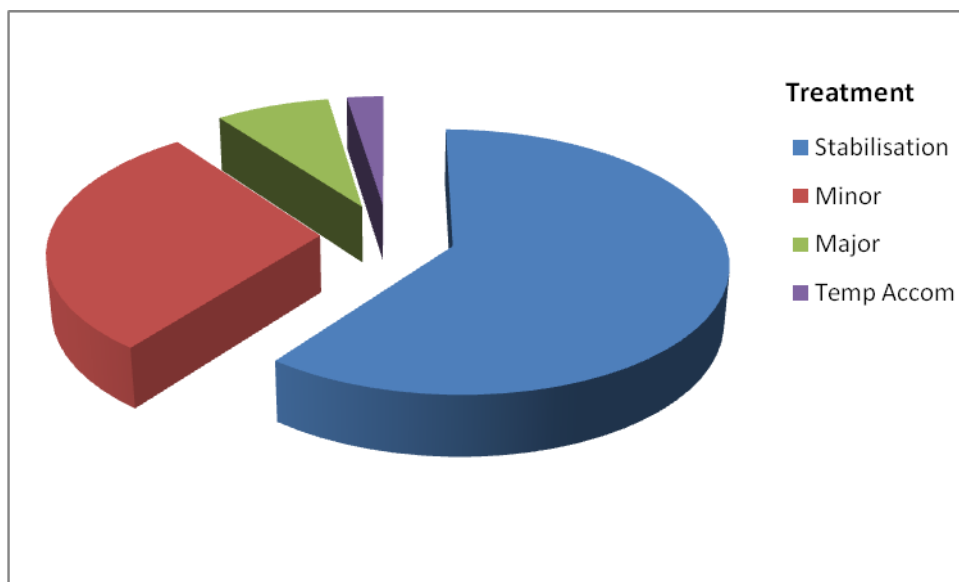


**Injuries reported were:**

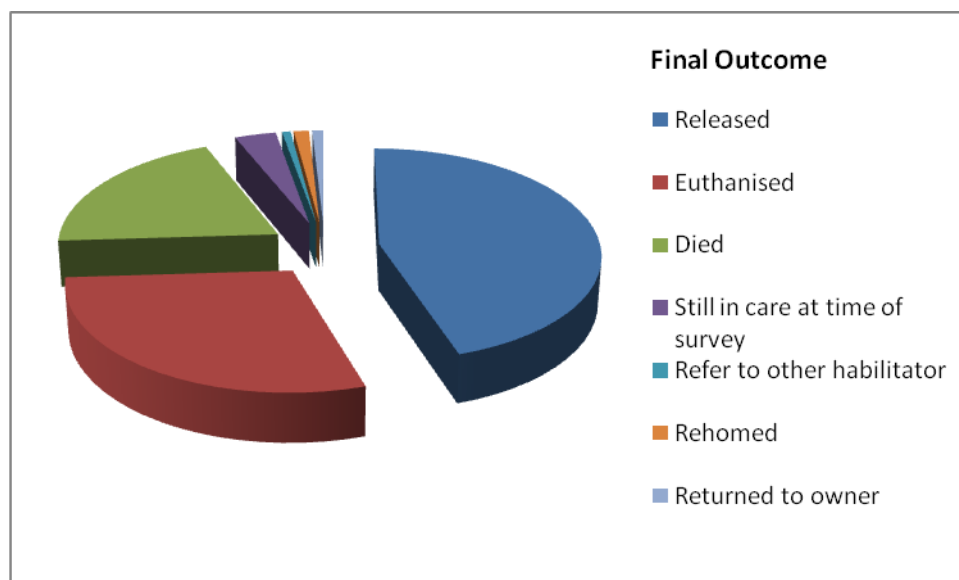
Natural injury 84  
Unnatural injury 131  
RTA 160  
Abandoned 55  
Trapped 32  
Domestic pet 7  
Poison 2  
Other 94



**Treatment consisted of:**  
 Stabilisation (no vet required) 342  
 Minor (injections/simple fracture) 166  
 Major (operation) 44  
 Temporary accommodation 14



**Outcomes:**  
 Released to the wild 255  
 Euthanised 164  
 Died 112  
 Still in care at time of survey 19  
 Referred to other rehabilitator 4  
 Rehomed 7  
 Returned to owner 5



## 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.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all our rehabilitators for their continued work and support and a special thanks to Sharon Mathews for compiling the survey data.

**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.

Raptor Rescue is a Registered Charity No. 283733