

The RSPB routinely monitors all incidents relating to bird crime. To report any information concerning such incidents, please contact your local Police Wildlife Crime Officer or the RSPB at any of the addresses below.

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The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing – help us keep it that way. We belong to BirdLife International, the global partnership of bird conservation organisations.

Front cover: peregrines have suffered persecution from gamekeepers and landowners, and been a target for egg collectors, but better legal protection and control of pesticides (which indirectly poisoned birds) have helped the population to recover considerably from a low in the 1960s.

www.rspb.org.uk/birdlaw

Peregrine by Mike Lane (rspb-images.com)
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BIRDCRIME 2007

Offences against wild bird legislation in 2007



Foreword

Environmental laws are designed to provide the boundaries within which we can carry out our activities. They are safeguards to ensure that we do no harm as we go about our businesses, hobbies and lives. When we breach these limits, we cause damage to the natural world around us.

Those who deal with wildlife crime know only too well the destruction and suffering inflicted by each criminal act, and members of the public regularly contact us to express their horror about cases that come to wider attention. What is less easily visible from these individual stories, shocking though they are, is the impact that wildlife crime can have on whole populations of birds.

Crimes against birds of prey frequently mean more than simply that a bird has been illegally killed or disturbed. There are large parts of the UK's countryside where raptors are absent as a breeding population, despite the presence of abundant suitable habitat. In England, Defra has announced that the hen harrier is England's most seriously threatened bird of prey, and has been given principal importance for conservation due to the severe declines it has suffered as a result of persecution. There was outrage in Scotland following the poisoning of the female golden eagle of the only breeding pair in the Borders. Red kites, released in equal numbers in the Chilterns and on the Black Isle, are flourishing across England but struggling in Scotland, with the evidence pointing to poisoning of birds around their release site.

Fortunately, the news is not all bleak. Despite some continued criminal incidents, the broad pattern across lowland areas is of increased tolerance or active support for birds of prey, with the result that populations of sparrowhawks and buzzards have returned to near-natural levels again. We believe this conservation success is due to the increased enforcement of the law combined with positive action from land managers, and is a major cause for celebration.

Upland areas, where raptors come into conflict with shooting interests, typify the bird crime hotspots where bird of prey numbers are depressed. Gamekeepers may be coming under pressure from unscrupulous employers and managers to take illegal action against raptors, particularly hen harriers and golden eagles, and since 1996 three quarters of those convicted for bird of prey offences have been connected with the game industry. The solution to this long-standing problem will lie, as it has in the lowlands, with rigorous and dedicated law-enforcement combined with the development of practical solutions. The RSPB remains dedicated to furthering both.

Sue Armstrong Brown, Head of Countryside Conservation

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Summary of reported incidents in 2007

This report summarises offences against wild bird legislation reported to the RSPB in 2007. Further copies are available on request from the RSPB Investigations Section at The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, or from the RSPB website (www.rspb.org.uk). It is believed that these published figures represent only a fraction of the total number of incidents, as many remain undetected and unreported, particularly those that occur in remote areas.

In 2007, the RSPB received 1,208 reports of potential offences against wild birds in the United Kingdom (see Appendices I and II). In 2007 there were:

- 262 reports of shooting and destruction of birds of prey, with the confirmed shooting of 34 individual birds of prey.
- 165 reports of poisoning incidents, including 76 confirmed incidents of abuse (see Appendix V) involving the confirmed poisonings of at least 104 individual birds or animals.
- 39 egg-collecting incidents, including two confirmed and four probable egg robberies from the nests of Schedule 1 species.
- 22 reports of illegal taking, possession or sale of birds of prey.
- 48 reports of illegal taking, possession or sale of wild birds other than birds of prey, predominantly finches.
- 32 reports relating to illegal disturbance or photography of Schedule 1 birds.
- 619 reports of shooting and destruction of non birds of prey, including trappings and nest destructions.

The annual figure of 1,208 incidents is the highest number of reports that has ever been received by the Investigations Unit (The 2002–2006 annual average was 686 incidents) and the 2007 reported incidents are more than double the number of incidents recorded in 2004.

Birdcrime 2006 saw the first time that annual reported figures exceeded 1,000 incidents. This may have been due to better reporting techniques and efforts by the National Wildlife Crime Unit to collate wildlife crime figures. 2007 sees an increase to this figure, which illustrates that wildlife offences involving wild birds are showing no signs of decreasing, especially involving raptors: 2007 shows the highest ever number of reported incidents involving the shooting and destruction of birds of prey.

The breakdown of reported incidents from the United Kingdom shows that 67% occurred within England, 19% in Scotland, 10.5% in Wales and just under 3% in Northern Ireland (just over 0.5% occurred in an unknown location in the United Kingdom).

In 2007, the RSPB received information on 33 individual prosecutions involving wild birds. These cases involved a total of 127 charges, of which 89 were proved. Fines for the year totalled £19,450 and two people were given prison sentences.

NB. References to previous years' figures may vary slightly from relevant issues of *Birdcrime* following late reports of incidents.

Shooting and destruction of birds of prey

The 2007 figures for shooting and destruction of birds of prey show that reports of bird of prey persecution are increasing year on year, with 2007 showing the highest number of reported incidents of bird of prey persecution. In order to try to combat this disturbing trend, the RSPB has this year launched a Bird of Prey Campaign, in an attempt to reduce the illegal persecution and killing of raptors in the United Kingdom.



Peregrine

In 2007, there were 262 reported incidents of illegal shooting, trapping and nest destruction of birds of prey (see Appendix I). This is the highest number ever reported (2002–2006 average of 158 incidents).

Of the 262 reports, 62 were confirmed and 76 were probable. The most common form of persecution was shooting, with 140 reports of incidents involving the shooting or attempted shooting of raptors and owls. Of the reported incidents, 34 were confirmed and a further 33 were probable.

There were 19 reports of shooting and destruction involving hen harriers, of which two were confirmed. This is particularly worrying in light of hen harriers, in 2008, being included on the government's list of species considered of principal importance for conserving in England, with Defra stating that hen harriers are "England's most seriously threatened bird of prey". There were 33 reported incidents of deliberate nest destruction of birds of prey and a further 87 incidents of other persecution such as trapping.

Case studies

Three gamekeepers convicted of setting traps for raptors

On 8 February 2008, three gamekeepers from the Snilesworth Estate pleaded guilty at Scarborough Magistrates Court to eight offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The head gamekeeper, James Shuttlewood, pleaded guilty to permitting the use of five illegal traps by his staff, and was fined

£1,250. Shuttlewood has over 20 years gamekeeping experience and had been the winner of a Purdey Game and Conservation award in 2005. Charles Woof, a gamekeeper covering the Scugdale Valley, pleaded guilty to using one of the traps and was fined £100. David Cook, a trainee underkeeper, pleaded guilty to using two traps and received a 12-month conditional discharge. All were ordered to pay £43 towards prosecution costs. It was clear the court took a particularly serious view of Mr Shuttlewood's involvement, outlining that his staff were carrying out his instructions and that his reputation had been tarnished.

In May 2007, a local farmer found three portable cage traps, all containing live pigeons, in secluded woodland areas in the Scugdale Valley on the north side of the Snilesworth Estate, on the North York Moors. The Snilesworth Shoot operates on the Estate and land is managed for the shooting of grouse, pheasant and partridge. Cage traps can be legally used to control certain crows but the use of live pigeons as bait is illegal, and the traps were clearly intended for the trapping of birds of prey.

On 26 May 2007, RSPB Investigators located a further four cage traps in other locations on the Snilesworth Estate; three of these also contained live pigeons. Following covert surveillance by the RSPB, on 29 May 2007 David Cook was filmed visiting two of the cage traps, and providing grain and water for the captive pigeons. This evidence was passed to the North Yorkshire Police and on 31 May 2007, assisted by the RSPB and RSPCA, they visited the Snilesworth Estate to seize evidence. Gamekeepers from the estate were later interviewed by the police and reported for a number of offences in relation to cage traps.

Pigeon fancier uses finches to trap birds of prey

On 23 October 2007, at Sunderland Magistrates Court, David Colwill, a pigeon fancier of Easington Colliery, was fined £600 and £60 costs after pleading guilty to two offences of setting a cage trap capable of taking wild birds, and one offence of failing to meet the needs of an animal. Three charges were taken into consideration.

On 6 September, following information received from a member of the public, RSPB officers attended the area and discovered a set cage trap in a garden containing three live canaries in the decoy department. On 10 September, RSPB officers attended the location and successfully filmed Mr Colwill taking the cage trap from his pigeon lofts and setting it. This was reported to the police, and on 13 September, PC Hughes co-ordinated a search with the RSPCA and RSPB at the premises. Mr Colwill was present at the address and was tending to his pigeons. The cage trap was discovered in a storage area of the pigeon lofts. Initially, Mr Colwill claimed it was merely a cage for holding his "singing" canaries. Mr Colwill was subsequently arrested and interviewed, where he admitted setting the cage trap but claimed it was set for catching nuisance magpies and relocating them.

The RSPB believed that the cage trap was set specifically for catching birds of prey, particularly sparrowhawks, and was able to provide a statement detailing issues between pigeon fanciers and birds of prey, and the use of cage traps for catching birds. The RSPCA had concerns over the welfare of the canaries being used within the trap and an appropriate statement was obtained from a vet. It is believed this was the first instance of the Animal Welfare Act being used in relation to decoy birds in a cage trap.



Sparrowhawk

Poisoning

There were 165 wildlife poisoning and pesticide-related offences reported in 2007. This is just below the highest ever recorded number of incidents in 2006 (when 190 reports were received), though well above the 2002–2006 average of 119 incidents.

Despite the total reported incidents of poisoning being slightly lower than last year (25 fewer), the number of incidents where abuse of a pesticide was confirmed by bait victim analysis was 76. This is just below the peak in 2006, when 85 confirmed incidents of abuse were recorded. These comprised the confirmed poisonings of at least 104 individual birds or animals, which is higher than the 95 recorded in 2006.

In addition to the 76 confirmed pesticide abuse incidents, there were also five confirmed incidents of illegal possession of pesticides and eight confirmed incidents of birds of prey dying through secondary rodenticide poisoning.

When examining which pesticide was involved in each of the reported incidents, it was found that the trend from previous years has prevailed and the most commonly abused pesticide was carbofuran, with 48 confirmed incidents. This is despite the fact the legal use of carbofuran in agriculture was withdrawn in 2001.

Case studies

Golden eagle poisoned in Scotland

The shocking news that a golden eagle had been found dead in the Scottish Borders stunned everyone involved in the conservation of wildlife in Scotland, and the rest of the UK.

The case was a particularly tragic one as the dead bird was the female of the only breeding pair of golden eagles in the Scottish Borders, the pair having nested successfully, unmolested, for many years. In fact, at the time, the pair were successfully rearing a chick; thankfully the young bird was semi-independent, but being fed by both parents. There were significant concerns for the chick's welfare so a food supply was organized to ensure the young bird continued to thrive.



Golden eagle

Wildlife Crime Officer PC Mark Rafferty recovered the dead bird from near its nest site and immediately delivered the body to the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) in Edinburgh for

analysis. The findings confirmed the bird had died from ingesting a poison.

Ironically, the date of the finding of the bird coincided with the start of the grouse-shooting season. Lothian and Borders Police, RSPB Scotland, the Scottish SPCA and the Scottish Executive conducted a search of land and property.

The news reached an international audience and led to a reward of up to £10,000 being offered by private donors, RSPB and wildlife organizations for information to enable the perpetrator to be caught. Questions were asked on the floor of the Scottish Government in Edinburgh.

Despite being excellent golden eagle country, the Borders have been a black hole in terms of golden eagle breeding in Scotland. Sadly, illegal persecution of birds of prey continues to be a shameful fact in parts of Scotland in the 21st century, and evidence shows that there is a correlation between the location of grouse moors and the incidence of raptor poisoning and persecution.

A study published in 2007 regarding the factors constraining the distribution of golden eagles in Scotland (Whitfield *et al* 2007) demonstrated, once again, that there is little evidence to suggest that recreational disturbance or the lack of feeding or breeding habitat is strongly influential on the occupation of golden eagle territories. By contrast, results were consistent with the evidence that persecution was influential in the distribution of this iconic species. Occupied eagle territories tended to decline where persecution was still happening, and tended to increase where persecution had probably declined.

In the central and eastern highlands of Scotland, where grouse moor management predominates, the eagle population continues to decline to levels where increasingly large areas of suitable habitat are unoccupied by breeding pairs.

One can only hope that the enormous public interest generated by the police investigation means that these majestic birds are allowed the space and the freedom to breed once again in the Scottish Borders and in the other "black hole" areas for raptors in Scotland.

Poison supply chain disrupted

In 2006, the RSPB received information that a male in the Midlands was supplying pesticides, acquired from Ireland, to a number of gamekeepers in the north of England for use in illegal predator control. A number of estates were mentioned as being involved. Over the years, information from several sources has claimed that pesticides sourced in Ireland have been used for illegal wildlife poisoning on British sporting estates. In the spring of 2007, a dead buzzard, a dead gull and a number of rabbit carcasses were found on two of the estates mentioned. Analysis confirmed the presence of the

pesticide alphachloralose, which has a long history in wildlife poisoning.

In May 2007, a joint operation involving North Yorkshire and West Mercia Police forces, supported by Natural England, the Defra Investigation Service (DIS) and the RSPB, executed warrants at a number of addresses. At an address in Shropshire, several unapproved and improperly stored pesticides were discovered. This included strychnine and the fumigant Cymag. Of particular concern were two kilos of pure alphachloralose in a box bearing postage details indicating they had been acquired from a pesticide firm in Eire. RSPB records showed this company had been at the centre of allegations, in 1995, of illegally supplying this product to gamekeepers in Scotland. Enquiries in Eire by the Pesticide Control Service resulted in a warning for the company.

The owner of these products denied distributing them to others, but was unable to explain why he would need to hold these highly toxic, professional control products. It was therefore disappointing that this matter was considered suitable for caution. Based on previous cases, the nature of the products and conditions of storage the RSPB felt this course of action was not appropriate. Two men in North Yorkshire were charged with a number of offences and this matter is ongoing.

The National Gamekeepers' Organisation later published an article accusing the police and others of persecuting gamekeepers. This failed to provide information about the presence of the poisoned birds and the NGO refused to print a response from the RSPB outlining the full facts of the investigation. The abuse of pesticides remains a serious problem, but hopefully one line of supply of products for wildlife poisoning has now been disrupted.

Egg collecting

In 2007, there were 39 reported incidents of egg collecting and egg thefts, and seven reports of eggs being sold. This reflects a decrease in the number of incidents usually received (average egg collecting incidents for 2002–2006 being 73 incidents). When comparing the percentage of all reported incidents that involve egg collecting, there is a definite decrease, as the 39 incidents represent only 3% of all reported incidents. (Compared to 12% in 2000 and 14% in 1990.)

These relatively low figures are a good sign, and illustrate that since the early 1990s the numbers of egg collecting incidents have greatly reduced. This highlights the success of policing strategies such as Operation Easter, and shows how the introduction in 2001 of custodial sentences has acted as a big deterrent. It is hoped this trend will be mirrored in other areas of bird crime.

There were three confirmed and four probable nest robberies from Schedule 1 species reported in 2007 (see Appendix VI). The robberies

in 2007 included two confirmed chough robberies and one confirmed peregrine robbery, and an additional two probable chough and three probable peregrine incidents.

Case studies

Jail for prolific collector

Following intelligence received by Lincolnshire Police, a Wildlife and Countryside Act search warrant was executed at the home address of Richard Pearson, Phelps Place, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, on 8 November 2006.

Officers from the Lincolnshire Police Wildlife Crime Unit and RSPB Investigations discovered over 7,000 wild bird eggs and a large amount of egg collecting paraphernalia at the address.

Richard Pearson was arrested and during interview claimed the eggs were given to him by Colin Watson, a notorious egg collector who fell to his death whilst inspecting a sparrowhawk nest in 2006.

Analysis of the collection by the RSPB found it to contain a total of 7,130 wild bird eggs with 653 of these being from Schedule 1-listed species, including honey buzzard, Montagu's harrier, osprey, red-necked phalarope, red-backed shrike, dotterel, greenshank, stone curlew and chough. This represented the largest collection found in the last two decades.

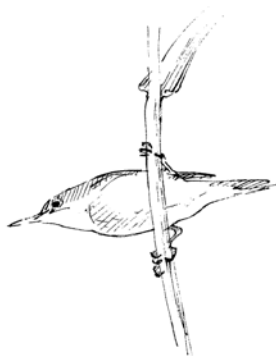
The collection also contained large numbers of eggs of individual species, including 25 clutches of little-ringed plovers, 15 clutches of red-backed shrikes, eight clutches of peregrines, seven clutches of choughs and 96 clutches of reed warblers.

Analysis of several diaries found at the house indicated that, contrary to his explanation, many of the eggs had been taken by Pearson over the previous 15 years, although a small number were taken illegally by Colin Watson. It was clear that Pearson had taken thousands of eggs in Lincolnshire, including several clutches of black-necked grebes and barn owls.

A number of dead birds – including birds of prey and Mediterranean species, many of which showed signs of having been illegally killed – were also found in a freezer at the house.

After almost two years of court appearances, Pearson appeared at Skegness Magistrates Court on 1 April 2008 and eventually pleaded guilty to possession of the 7,130 eggs and three specimen charges relating to his activities in 2005, including the taking of chough and peregrine eggs on Anglesey, and barn owls in Lincolnshire.

Pearson received a 23-week jail sentence and was ordered to pay £1,500 costs. Sentencing Pearson, District Judge Richard Blake said:



Reed warbler

"You have carefully organised and executed an evil campaign against wildlife; word must go out from this court to deal with the perverted activity of those who seize eggs in lust for ownership. You have threatened the fragile heritage of the wildlife of this island, preying on the rarest of birds."

Serial egg thief convicted again

On 3 January 2008, prolific egg collector Gregory Peter Wheal was sentenced at Coventry Magistrates to six months imprisonment after pleading guilty to three offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This was his ninth conviction since 1987 and he had received a four-month sentence for similar offences in January 2006.

On 19 June 2007, following intelligence gathered by RSPB and Warwickshire Police, and assisted by West Midlands Police and the NWCUC, a number of search warrants were executed as part of 'Operation Carron'.



Raven

At one address, a number of birds' eggs (believed to have been recently taken in Iceland and Turkey) were seized, some from a hidden compartment under the conservatory floor. These eggs were outside the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but were later destroyed by Defra as they had been imported without appropriate health certificates.

At Wheal's address, four peregrine eggs and six raven eggs were seized, along with a selection of egg-collecting equipment, including containers, climbing irons and books. Wheal was arrested and during interview alluded to the fact that he had a collection he was not about to give up, and would like to be able to put it on show. At an earlier hearing, while leaving court, he had remarked to the press he would not be giving up egg collecting. Following sentencing, an application was also made for a CRASBO (Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order) to try to restrict his movements during the breeding season and prevent him associating with other convicted egg collectors.

Wheal himself said he was in favour of this as he found the bird-breeding season "very stressful". After nearly two hours deliberation, the court outlined that the Wildlife and Countryside Act was of outstanding social importance and he had blatantly disregarded this law. In view of the seriousness, custody was the only option. The court was also satisfied that egg collecting constituted anti-social behaviour but decided on this occasion a CRASBO was not appropriate.

Trade in wild birds and taxidermy

In 2007, there were 81 reported incidents involving the taking, sale and possession of live and dead birds, which is the same as the average from 2002–2006. The majority of 2007 incidents were cases of taking, selling and possessing live non-birds of prey (mostly finches)

accounting for 48 incidents with the figure involving 22 incidents involving birds of prey. There were 11 incidents of illegal taxidermy and the case study below outlines one of these cases.

Case study

Taxidermy dealer "ignorant of the law"

A former Accrington antiques business which sold stuffed animals illegally escaped with a 12-month conditional discharge and costs of just £65 after its director appeared before Hyndburn Magistrates. Darell Kevin Cosgrove, 41, a director of Globalcount Ltd which owned the Sell-it-all store in Accrington, appeared at Court on 8 October 2007.

During a warrant in March 2007, Lancashire police, assisted by the NWCU and RSPB, seized several stuffed animals protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Wildlife and Countryside Act. Globalcount pleaded guilty to 14 charges involving the sale of stuffed animals, namely a Eurasian eagle owl, three tawny owls, a sparrowhawk, two peregrines, two buzzards, a robin, a starling, a Scottish wildcat, an otter and a red squirrel.

Bernard Horne, defending, said: "The offences are due to ignorance of the law and there was not any attempt to deliberately flout the regulations; it was a genuine mistake."

After the hearing, Lancashire Police declared their satisfaction with the result. However, the RSPB expressed disappointment, given that an antiques dealer in Burnley had been fined £2,000 in 2006 for similar offences.

Ignorance should no longer be an excuse from now on, following the setting-up of the taxidermy law information website by Kim MacDonald of the Guild of Taxidermists. Taxidermy dealers now only have to log on to www.taxidermylaw.co.uk to see where they stand in relation to legislation.

Other wild bird crime

As well as reported incidents of bird of prey persecution, there were an additional 619 reported incidents of shooting and destruction of non-birds of prey. This is by far the greatest number ever recorded by the RSPB. These elevated figures are due to increased intelligence sharing with the police, NWCU and RSPCA, and demonstrate more clearly the scale of illegal killing of wild birds.

These 619 reports included 157 confirmed shooting and destruction incidents and 153 probable incidents. Within the total reported incidents, 186 concerned the intentional destruction of active bird nests (non birds of prey), of which 25 could be confirmed.

There were also 32 reported incidents of photography and disturbance of Schedule 1 species, nine of which were confirmed; these involved four peregrines, two hen harriers, two ospreys and a red-throated diver.



Mute swan

Case studies

Swans massacred

On 9 October 2007, RSPB Investigations were called to a lake at Radwell, Bedfordshire, where workmen had discovered the bodies of 29 freshly dead mute swans buried in a pit. Veterinary examination of the swans, a marsh harrier and a grey heron also found in the pit indicates all birds had been shot.

From the evidence at the scene, it was clear this was not the work of youths and that the investigation was to be centred on an organised and deliberate act to eradicate swans from this particular lake.

Three men were interviewed and charged in relation to this offence by Bedfordshire Police and are currently awaiting trial.

Prosecutions in 2007

The RSPB maintains a record of prosecutions involving offences against wild birds. In 2007, the RSPB was involved with or informed of the prosecutions of 33 individuals, including prosecutions taken by the Crown Prosecution Service, Procurator Fiscal, Defra and the RSPCA (see Appendix VII). The 33 prosecutions involved at least 127 charges, the majority of which were charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Of these 89 resulted in a guilty outcome (70%). Fines for the year totalled £19,450 and two people were awarded custodial sentences.

Review of 2007

National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)

Funding and securing the future for the NWCU was at the top of the agenda in 2007, with concerned partners communicating with the Home Office, Defra and the police on the importance of the unit and the need to secure its future with adequately sourced funding. In February 2008, Defra and the Home Office agreed to contribute £150,000 each per annum over the next three financial years as core-funding for the unit. This is welcome news as it places the NWCU in a strong position, well placed to help deliver improved enforcement on the ground. The next challenge is to ensure that adequate funding is put in place beyond 2010.

The funding uncertainty had a significant impact on the capacity of the Unit throughout 2007 and into 2008, which included the loss of the Operation Artemis Co-ordinator in September 2007. It is hoped that

security of funding will now bring a period of stability to the unit's work.

Despite previous challenges and with the assistance of many partner agencies, the unit produced the first strategic assessment of wildlife crime, which covered the period 2007–8. An unrestricted version of the assessment is available on the PAW website, www.defra.gov.uk/paw

In the light of the assessment, the following wildlife crime priorities were agreed for 2008/09:

- bats
- illegal trade in CITES species
- freshwater pearl mussels
- hen harrier persecution
- poaching.

This report is welcomed as a starting point because it places wildlife crime investigation on a par with those crime areas that have been the subject of strategic assessments for a number of years; this will hopefully put it on the agenda of police forces when compiling their annual policing plans.

The unit also contributed to the Thematic Inspection of the arrangements in Scotland for preventing, investigating and prosecuting wildlife crime, which was published by the Scottish government in April 2008. A copy can be found on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/03143616/10

More information about NWCUC can be found at www.nwcu.police.uk/index.asp

Police Wildlife Crime Officers

The RSPB would like to thank Paul Henerey, the former WCO for Northumbria, for his unstinting commitment to championing the cause of wildlife crime investigation. He was reassigned to general police duties six months after he scooped the prestigious WWF Wildlife Law Enforcer of the Year award.

Paul had been with the Northumbria Police WCO for almost 15 years, and during this time helped to raise the profile of wildlife law enforcement through diverse investigations, community work and involvement with the media. In 2002, Paul narrated a BBC TV documentary that uncovered the murky world of raptor persecution on some upland game shooting estates. His high profile even resulted in a fictional BBC TV drama series, *Badger*, starring Jerome Flynn, being based on his role as Northumbria Police WCO.

The abolition or reduction to part-time liaison of full-time WCO posts, as has occurred in some forces, is an issue because it impacts on the ability of forces to effectively investigate wildlife crime. The RSPB would like to see the recommendation of the Scottish Thematic Review of wildlife crime investigation – that each force that does not have a full-time wildlife coordinator post should create one – taken up in the rest of the UK.

WWF Wildlife Enforcer of the Year Award 2007

The 2007 award was presented to Nigel Lound of Lincolnshire Police at the annual Police and Customs Wildlife Enforcement Conference which was held at the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man in October 2007. The award was presented to Nigel by Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom of North Wales Police, who recognised Nigel's dedication and enthusiasm in his work as a wildlife crime officer and his commitment to education, prevention and enforcement in tackling wildlife crime.

Once again, the quality of the nominations submitted was very high, and a runner-up award was presented to Andy Steel from HM Revenue and Customs.

Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW)

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW), chaired by Defra and the police, is a multi-agency body that provides an opportunity for statutory and non-statutory bodies to work together to combat wildlife crime.

In 2007, PAW achievements have included the provision of a new PAW Roadshow. The custom-built trailer is available to any PAW Partner to use and contains a number of exhibits depicting different types of wildlife crime. During the 2007 summer season, and despite the weather conditions, the Roadshow visited five major shows and a number of local events, including the Bird Fair at Rutland, and proved to be very popular with members of the public.

The 14th Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) took place in The Hague in June 2007. A number of PAW partners attended CoP and details of the conference can be found on the CITES website, at www.cites.org

During CoP, the UK hosted an enforcement side event which was chaired by Richard Brunstrom (Chief Constable, North Wales Police and Co-Chair of PAW). The aim of the event was to provide an insight into the importance of enforcement structures from national to regional to inter-regional levels, and to highlight new developments within the EU to combat wildlife crime.

PAW has continued to support the work of CAWT, the US-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking in 2007. CAWT was set up as a global organisation to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. CAWT intends to complement other initiatives already in place.

PAW Partner of the Year Award 2007

The winners of the 2007 PAW Partner of the Year Award were the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT). The award, sponsored by Browne Jacobson Solicitors, was presented to BCT at the annual Open PAW Seminar at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on 27 February 2008.

The award was accepted by Alison Rasey, Investigations Officer at BCT, who said: "BCT is honoured to accept this award – it is a real tribute to bat volunteers across the UK who work incredibly hard to ensure bats and their habitats are protected."

Ms Rasey said much of the valuable work undertaken within the area of wildlife crime would not be possible without the support of the Partnership, and BCT hopes that PAW continues to go from strength to strength.

Tribute was paid to BCT's work, which includes assisting the police when investigating a number of offences, recording bat-related crime and helping to educate the general public and professionals who may come across bats in their work, in order to try to prevent incidents from occurring in the first place. Prevention of crime is always preferred to prosecution.

PAW Northern Ireland

2007 heralded the launch of the new Northern Ireland branch of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime on 24 April, in the Long Gallery at Stormont. It brought together statutory and non-Government organisations to combat wildlife crime, from the RSPB and the USPCA to Countryside Alliance Ireland and BASC.

The group met twice in 2007 with full agendas, the main piece of work undertaken being to create a wildlife crime protocol to ensure a consistency of incident-reporting across the province. This is due to be ratified in 2008. The formation of the group has been welcomed by Hilary Thompson (Defra) and Richard Brunstrom (Chief Constable, North Wales and ACPO wildlife crime lead) the co-chairs of PAW UK.

The launch also coincided with the appointment by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) of its first full-time Wildlife Liaison Officer (WLO), Emma Meredith, to act as a central point of contact within the Northern Ireland Police Service for support and advice regarding wildlife and animal-related crime. Its formation and the WLO appointment puts wildlife crime firmly on the Northern Ireland crime agenda.

Operation Artemis

In October 2007 Operation Artemis was concluded, and will be followed by Operation Moorwatch. Operation Artemis, set up to tackle the ongoing persecution of the hen harrier, was a major landmark in police initiatives for dealing with priority wildlife crime issues. In 2003, hen harriers were identified as a national wildlife crime priority by JNCC.

In February 2004, Operation Artemis was launched, driven forward by WCO's Paul Henery (Northumbria Police) and Steve Downing (West Yorkshire WCO), supported by intelligence handling and information analysis from NWCU (National Wildlife Crime Unit). The first year attempted to gain support from grouse moor owners and managers to support police action to tackle hen harrier persecution. Disappointingly, there was widespread rejection of support for Operation Artemis; however, this at least allowed the police to grasp the seriousness of the scale of the problem.

Following a promising start, the RSPB has been disappointed that Artemis has not pushed forward any real structured enforcement work to tackle the individuals involved with these offences. Prosecuting individuals for hen harrier persecution is extremely difficult, and the only two individuals convicted to date have been a result of evidence gathered by the RSPB. Consequently, the RSPB, and others, believe the enforcement focus has been too narrow and have been keen for the police to expand the scale of the operation and address all offences committed by those involved with hen harrier persecution, including all offences against raptors and illegal poisoning.

At the 2007 UK Police and Customs Wildlife Enforcement Conference, the NWCU outlined the current wildlife crime priorities but indicated that more data was needed on other bird of prey persecution and poisoning. The RSPB is disappointed with this conclusion. There is a huge volume of published data going back over 20 years, numerous scientific studies, and, as far back as 2000, the comprehensive government "UK Raptor Working Group Report" identified the need for more enforcement action. The RSPB is concerned that repeated analysis seems to have precedence over action.

The RSPB has been encouraged by a number of well-resourced enquiries, particularly in Scotland, by individual police forces. However, we believe a more co-ordinated and structured approach to enforcement by the government is still required.

Bird Registration

As Birdcrime went to press, Biodiversity Minister Joan Ruddock announced that the UK bird registration scheme would not be scrapped altogether but the number of species reduced drastically.

The scheme requires owners of captive birds listed on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act to be registered with Defra.

The announcement came after an Adjournment Debate in Parliament on the future of the scheme on 23 January 2008. The debate was secured by Martin Salter, Labour MP for Reading West, who made an impassioned plea for the Minister to accept the conclusions of the conservation community and the police to retain the list of over 40 species recommended for Schedule 4 listing by JNCC.

The RSPB understands that Defra intends to remove all species from Schedule 4 with the exception of seven species of native UK bird of prey. The species are golden eagle, goshawk, osprey, honey buzzard, white-tailed eagle, marsh and Montagu's harrier.

Defra's proposed list excludes the eleven non-EU species originally proposed by JNCC, such as Lear's macaw and Bali starling. JNCC had argued that registration would assist in the conservation effort for these critically endangered species.

Of the native British birds set to be omitted, the peregrine is the species of most concern to the RSPB. Traditionally, most criminality involving Schedule 4 birds has centred on this species due to the demand for it as a falconry bird. The crime rate was only reduced in the mid-1990s following a series of high-profile court convictions in which registration records proved vital in tracing birds stolen from the wild for DNA analysis. Although the peregrine population is currently at an all time high of over 1,300 pairs nationally, this figure masks some worrying regional declines.

At the time of writing, the RSPB is urging the Minister to reconsider her proposal to de-list this species from Schedule 4.

Wild Bird Trade

The EU permanently banned the import of all wild birds in July 2007. The ban was implemented on disease-prevention grounds following an assessment by the European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) that wild-caught birds risked introducing diseases such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The RSPB supports the implementation of the ban, which it believes will have positive conservation benefits, especially for previously over-exploited species such as the African grey parrot. The RSPB will vigorously resist any attempt to re-open the trade under current circumstances.

During 2007, a report called 'Bred in a Trap', commissioned by Vogelbescherming Nederland, concluded that there had been a massive increase in the number of native EU species available to bird keepers since Dutch legislation was liberalised in 1997 and 2002, and that a significant percentage of these birds are wild-caught.

A change in Dutch law in 1997 made it legal to have possession of any native European birds as long as they were captive bred and close ringed. Prior to this, it was legal to keep only seven native species – chaffinch, goldfinch, siskin, linnet, greenfinch, yellowhammer and blackbird.

The investigation found that 126 species have now occurred in captivity in Holland in the 10 years since 1997, including 37 of the 78 Dutch 'Red List' species. The report concluded that a significant percentage of these birds originate from the wild, as the 87 native species that have been confiscated by the Dutch authorities in the period 2003–2006 clearly indicates. A number of high-profile cases brought by the authorities illustrate that there is a national and international network of trappers and traders involved. Among the species that have appeared in trade in recent years are black-tailed godwit, avocet, bearded tit, bluethroat, waxwing, turtle dove, garden warbler, golden oriole, hoopoe, little ringed plover, red-backed shrike, pied flycatcher, stone-curlew, skylark and woodlark.

The report recommends that to tackle this situation, improvements need to be made to the administration and enforcement of the bird trade in Holland. These should include a fundamental alteration of the ringing system: rings should be issued preferably by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, with standardised rings and a central database available to enforcement authorities. In addition, the use of DNA testing and microchips should be expanded and supervision of the trade by enforcement authorities should be increased.

The findings of the Dutch report come as no surprise to the RSPB. Whilst there is no hard evidence of an increase in illegal trade in these species in the UK, anecdotally there does appear to have been a wider range of species advertised as the regulations have been gradually relaxed over the years. The trend appears to be confirmed by recent enforcement action in which unusual species have been seized for sale here in the UK (eg lapwing, redshank, dunlin, curlew, bar-tailed godwit, two-barred crossbill and corn bunting – see *Legal Eagle* 37) and after being wild-taken in Europe (eg redwing, fieldfare, twite, spotted redshank, whimbrel, wood sandpiper and many others – see *Legal Eagle* 42) appears to confirm this trend.

The lesson for the UK Government is clear – inappropriate deregulation leads to an increase in criminality.

The report can be downloaded at
www.vogelbescherming.nl/documents/pdf-files/rapport_vogelhandel_engels.pdf

Scottish Thematic Review

Following the poisoning of the golden eagle in the Scottish Borders and the publication of RSPB Scotland's Persecution Report, the press and media attention has been intense over the summer. Politicians from all political parties, along with landowners and organisations, joined in the condemnation of the continued killing of Scotland's iconic protected species. A debate in the Scottish Parliament about wildlife crime was held on 4 October.

RSPB Scotland prepared a briefing paper prior to the debate and commented that the Scottish Government could be asked:

- to ensure the appointment of at least one full-time Wildlife Crime Officer in each Scottish force
- to clarify contentious issues, including the availability of penalties and the admissibility of evidence
- if it will review the penalties currently available to the courts and ensure all wildlife crime is centrally recorded
- if it will take steps to ensure consistent application of rules on admissibility of evidence and application of access legislation, in order to ensure the public benefits of prosecuting wildlife crime

The Parliamentary motion said:

"Parliament notes that... 2006 was the worst year ever for recorded wildlife poisoning incidents and figures so far for 2007 show no improvement; (it) condemns those responsible for such acts which destroy vital parts of our natural and national heritage while damaging our international reputation, and welcomes the thematic inspection of arrangements for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime ..." —[Michael Russell, Environment Minister.]

An amendment added "and urges Ministers to ensure that each Scottish police force appoint at least one full time police wildlife crime co-coordinator; wildlife crime cases are prosecuted wherever possible by fiscals with specialist training; and guidance is produced which pulls together all legislation relevant to wildlife crime for use by landowners, managers and their staff..."

Both motions were passed unanimously

The Thematic Review Panel commenced work during winter 2007/8. The panel used a mixture of direct interviews, questionnaires along with direct visits to all Scottish forces and COPFS areas. The Panel also attended various partnership meetings and seminars. A list of all wildlife crime cases reported to COPFS from the beginning of 2006 until November 2007 was obtained. All case files for those cases that

were concluded were sought from COPFS. The vast majority of these were provided and all aspects of the prosecution were examined.

'Natural Justice, A joint thematic inspection of the arrangements in Scotland for preventing, investigating and prosecuting wildlife crime' was published on the 8 April 2008. The report highlights the need for a clear wildlife crime reduction strategy from the Scottish Government and for an inclusive national partnership structure to take this forward.

We welcomed the report and the 24 main recommendations. We hope that the hard work undertaken by the panel and time given by police, partner bodies and members of the public will be seen to lead to a real reduction of wildlife crime incidents in the coming years.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/218661/0058716.pdf

Appendix I – incidents reported to the RSPB 2002–2007

Incident type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Shooting & destruction of birds of prey	166	140	135	152	200	262
Taking and sale of wild birds of prey (including illegal possession)	44	32	19	29	41	22
Poisoning & use of poisoned baits	99	92	115	101	190	165
Import & export of live or dead birds	5	2	4	1	2	0
Shooting & destruction of non-birds of prey	124	131	117	237	482	619
Taking and sale of non-birds of prey (including illegal possession)	34	35	23	40	66	48
Taxidermy & possession of dead birds	3	4	15	15	8	11
Egg collecting & egg thefts	83	78	73	56	74	39
Sale of eggs	1	4	10	12	6	7
Photography & disturbance of Schedule 1 birds	19	33	12	23	25	32
Habitat destruction (Involving Special Areas of Protection or Sites of Special Scientific Interest)	8	0	4	2	2	3
Total	586	551	527	668	1096	1208
UK breakdown for 2007						
England						810
Scotland						229
Wales						128
Northern Ireland						33
Not specified						8
						1208

Note: reported incident totals for previous years may have changed due to a number of belated reports or additional information received after the publishing date for the *Birdcrime* of that year.

Appendix II – regional breakdown of incidents reported in 2007

RSPB Region	County	Birds of prey or owls	Other	Overall total
Eastern England	Bedfordshire	4	9	13
	Cambridgeshire	1	1	2
	Essex	2	17	19
	Hertfordshire	1	13	14
	Lincolnshire	6	29	35
	Norfolk	2	11	13
	Peterborough City	0	1	1
	Suffolk	3	11	14
	Total	19	92	111
Central England	Buckinghamshire	2	7	9
	Derbyshire	4	7	11
	Herefordshire	0	4	4
	Leicester City	0	5	5
	Leicestershire	3	16	19
	Milton Keynes	0	1	1
	Northamptonshire	1	5	6
	Nottinghamshire	3	14	17
	Oxfordshire	1	4	5
	Shropshire	16	10	26
	Staffordshire	2	6	8
	Telford and Wrekin	1	0	1
	Warwickshire	2	7	9
	West Midlands	7	17	24
	Worcestershire	0	10	10
Total	42	113	155	
North east England	Cheshire	2	18	20
	County Durham	9	13	22
	Cumbria	16	14	30
	Darlington	1	0	1
	East Riding of Yorkshire	5	1	6
	Greater Manchester	1	14	15
	Halton	0	1	1
	Kingston upon Hull	0	3	3
	Lancashire	8	26	34
	Merseyside	1	7	8
	Middlesbrough	1	1	2
	North Yorkshire	78	12	90
	Northumberland	22	10	32
	South Yorkshire	5	15	20
	Stockton-on-Tees	2	0	2
	Stoke-on-Trent City	0	1	1
	Tyne and Wear	0	5	5
	West Yorkshire	9	10	19
Total	160	151	311	

Appendix II – regional breakdown of incidents reported in 2007 (continued)

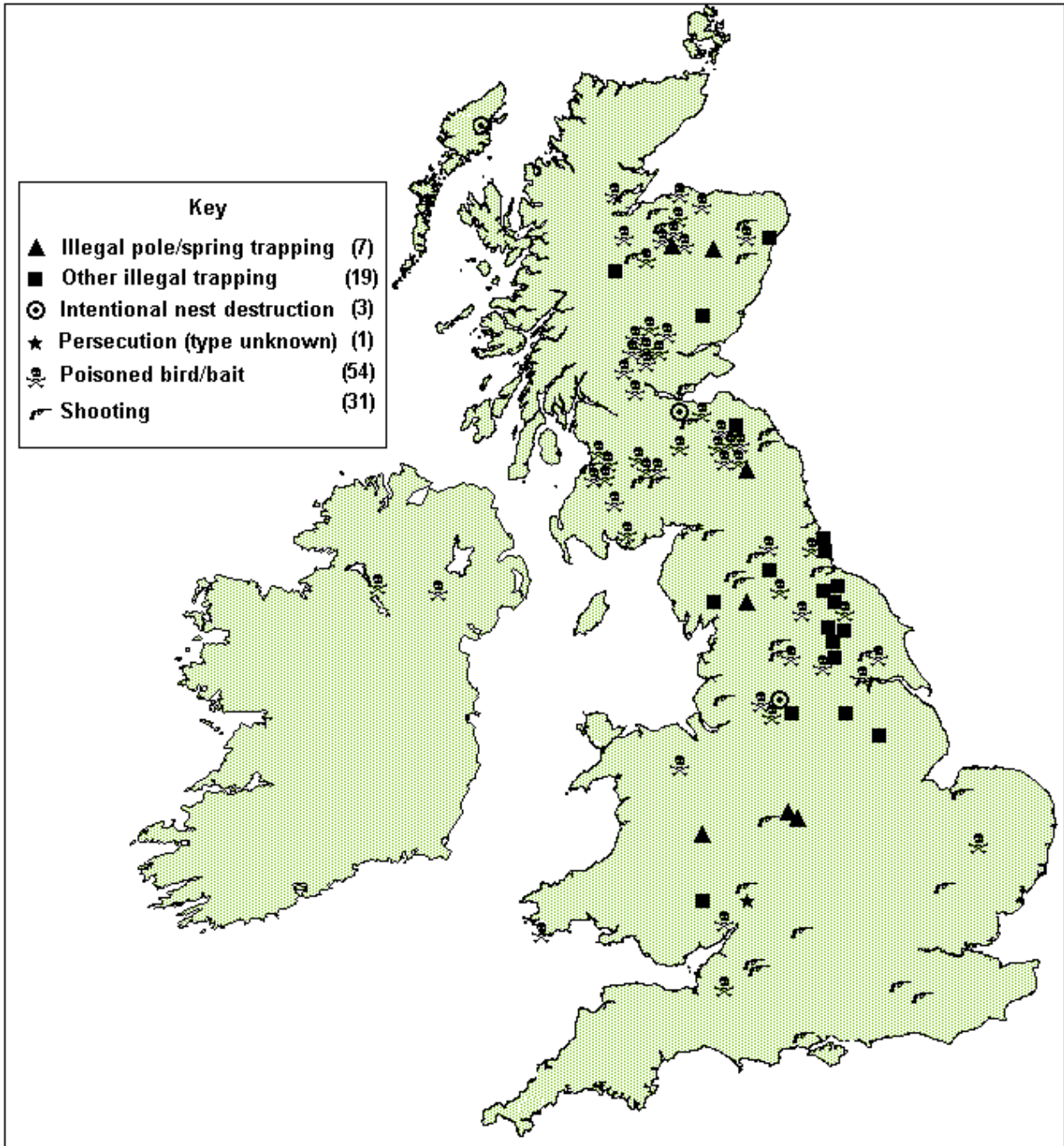
Region	County	Birds of prey or owls	Other	Overall total
South east England	Brighton and Hove	0	3	3
	East Sussex	0	6	6
	Greater London	0	39	39
	Hampshire	2	7	9
	Isle of Wight	1	0	1
	Kent	3	32	35
	Reading	2	0	2
	Slough	0	1	1
	Southampton City	0	1	1
	Surrey	3	8	11
	West Berkshire	1	2	3
	West Sussex	1	8	9
	Total		13	107
South west England	Bristol City	0	5	5
	Cornwall	5	11	16
	Devon	6	35	41
	Dorset	3	5	8
	Gloucestershire	5	17	22
	North Somerset	0	1	1
	Somerset	2	7	9
	Torbay	0	1	1
	Wiltshire	4	3	7
	Total		25	85
Northern Ireland	Antrim	4	6	10
	Armagh	2	5	7
	Down	1	6	7
	Fermanagh	0	1	1
	Londonderry	1	2	3
	Tyrone	0	4	4
	Total		8	24
East Scotland	Aberdeen City	2	1	3
	Aberdeenshire	11	12	23
	Angus	8	4	12
	Dundee City	0	1	1
	Fife	2	7	9
	Moray	3	2	5
	Perth and Kinross	15	11	26
	Total		41	38
North Scotland	Highland	22	2	24
	Shetland	0	2	2
	Western Isles	3	0	3
	Total		25	4

Appendix II – regional breakdown of incidents reported in 2007 (continued)

Region	County	Birds of prey or owls	Other	Overall total
South & west Scotland	Argyll and Bute	0	3	3
	Dumfries and Galloway	12	4	16
	East Ayrshire	6	2	8
	East Lothian	0	1	1
	Edinburgh City	1	2	3
	Falkirk	1	0	1
	Glasgow City	0	3	3
	Midlothian	7	0	7
	North Lanarkshire	3	1	4
	Renfrewshire	1	1	2
	Scottish Borders	16	4	20
	South Ayrshire	8	9	17
	South Lanarkshire	10	1	11
	Stirling	11	2	13
	West Dunbartonshire	0	3	3
	West Lothian	0	4	4
	Total	76	40	116
Wales	Blaenau Gwent	3	2	5
	Bridgend	2	0	2
	Cardiff	1	9	10
	Carmarthenshire	4	2	6
	Ceredigion	1	2	3
	Conwy	2	3	5
	Denbighshire	5	8	13
	Flintshire	1	12	13
	Gwynedd	1	24	25
	Isle of Anglesey	1	3	4
	Merthyr Tydfil	0	2	2
	Monmouthshire	2	0	2
	Neath Port Talbot	0	1	1
	Newport	0	3	3
	Pembrokeshire	2	0	2
	Powys	3	3	6
	Rhondda Cynon Taff	7	3	10
	Swansea City	0	2	2
	Vale of Glamorgan	1	5	6
	Wrexham	2	6	8
	Total	38	90	128

Note: Incidents where the location was only given as 'England', 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland', 'Wales' or 'United Kingdom' were not included.

Appendix III – distribution of confirmed bird of prey and owl persecution incidents 2007



Note: the number of incidents marked on the map is fewer than the actual number reported because not all incidents can be allocated a grid reference. Where more than one incident has been reported in the same 10-km grid square, the relevant symbols have been moved slightly for clarity.

Appendix IV – confirmed and probable bird of prey and owl persecution during 2007

Persecution type	Month	Species	No. birds/nests involved		County	
			Confirmed	Probable		
Shooting	January	Buzzard	1	-	Cumbria	
		Sparrowhawk	-	1	West Midlands	
	February	Buzzard	-	1	Wiltshire	
		Buzzard	1	-	Wiltshire	
	March	Kestrel	-	1	Stockton-on-Tees	
		Buzzard	2	-	Midlothian	
		Kestrel	1	-	Wiltshire	
		Peregrine	1	-	Fife	
	April	Peregrine	-	2	Dumfries and Galloway	
		Sparrowhawk	-	1	Buckinghamshire	
		Falconiformes	1	-	Dumfries and Galloway	
		Buzzard	1	-	Surrey	
		Buzzard	4	-	Cumbria	
		Buzzard	-	1	Cornwall	
		Buzzard	-	1	County Durham	
		Buzzard	1	-	Northumberland	
		Buzzard	-	1	North Yorkshire	
		Hen Harrier	-	1	Dumfries and Galloway	
		Peregrine	-	1	Dumfries and Galloway	
		Red kite	1	-	East Riding of Yorkshire	
		Short eared owl	-	-	North Yorkshire	
		May	Osprey	-	1	Shropshire
			Peregrine	-	1	Shropshire
	Red kite		1	-	North Yorkshire	
	Short eared owl		1	-	Dumfries and Galloway	
	July	Buzzard	-	1	Highland	
		Peregrine	1	-	Lancashire	
		Peregrine	1	-	Isle of Wight	
	August	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Buzzard	1	-	Aberdeenshire	
		Kestrel	-	1	County Durham	
	September	Barn owl	-	1	Nottinghamshire	
		Buzzard	2	-	Highland	
		Buzzard	1	-	Northumberland	
		Hen harrier	-	1	North Yorkshire	
		Hobby	1	-	Gloucestershire	
		Kestrel	-	1	Derbyshire	
		Red kite	1	-	Blaenau Gwent	
		Sparrowhawk	1	-	West Midlands	
		October	Buzzard	1	-	County Durham
	Hen harrier		2	-	Norfolk	
	Marsh harrier		1	-	Bedfordshire	
	Tawny owl		-	1	Aberdeen City	
	November	Buzzard	-	1	Cumbria	
		Buzzard	1	-	Aberdeenshire	
		Buzzard	1	-	South Ayrshire	
	December	Buzzard	1	-	Moray	
Hen harrier		-	1	Lancashire		

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Persecution type	Month	Species	No. birds/nests involved		County
			Confirmed	Probable	
Shooting (continued)	December	Sparrowhawk	-	1	South Yorkshire
	Unspecified	Falconiformes	-	?	Cumbria
		Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Buzzard	-	?	Cumbria
		Kestrel	1	-	Surrey
		Owls	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Peregrine	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Peregrine	-	?	West Yorkshire
		Sparrowhawk	1	-	Stockton-on-Tees
		Total		34	22

Deliberate nest destruction	March	Golden eagle	?	-	Western Isles
		Golden eagle	-	?	Perth and Kinross
	April	Peregrine	-	?	Perth and Kinross
		Hen harrier	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Peregrine	-	?	West Yorkshire
		Peregrine	?	-	West Yorkshire
		Peregrine	-	?	North Lanarkshire
		Peregrine	-	1	Scottish Borders
		Buzzard	-	?	Oxfordshire
	May	Hen harrier	-	?	South Lanarkshire
		Peregrine	3	-	Midlothian
		Peregrine	-	?	North Lanarkshire
		Peregrine	-	3	South Lanarkshire
	June	Hen harrier	-	?	East Ayrshire
	July	Hen harrier	-	?	East Ayrshire
	August	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
	Unspecified	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Hen harrier	-	?	Perth and Kinross
		Owls	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Peregrine	-	1	West Yorkshire
Total		3	5		

Illegal spring trapping	August	Peregrine	1	-	Staffordshire
	September	Barn owl	1	-	Aberdeenshire
	October	Falconiformes	?	-	Cumbria
	Total		1	1	

Illegal pole trapping	May	Falconiformes	-	?	Highland
		Falconiformes	?	-	Highland
		Owls	-	?	Highland
	June	Falconiformes	-	?	Northumberland
		Owls	-	?	Northumberland
	July	Falconiformes	?	-	Shropshire
	Oct	Buzzard	-	?	Midlothian
		Buzzard	-	?	Midlothian
	November	Falconiformes	-	?	Northumberland

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Persecution type	Month	Species	No. birds/nests involved		County
			Confirmed	Probable	
Illegal pole trapping (continued)	November	Owls	-	?	Northumberland
	Unspecified	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Owls	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Total	0	0	

Illegal trapping (other)	Feb	Goshawk	?	-	Derbyshire
	July	Buzzard	1	-	Cumbria
	August	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire
		Falconiformes	-	?	Pembrokeshire
		Falconiformes	?	-	Monmouthshire
		Falconiformes	?	-	Nottinghamshire
		Sparrowhawk	?	-	Nottinghamshire
		Falconiformes	?	-	Scottish Borders
		Goshawk	?	-	Scottish Borders
	September	Falconiformes	?	-	County Durham
		Sparrowhawk	?	-	County Durham
	Total	1	0		

Persecution (other or type unknown)	April	Hen harrier	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Hen harrier	-	2	Northumberland	
		Peregrine	-	1	Scottish Borders	
		Short eared owl	-	?	North Yorkshire	
	May	Falconiformes	-	?	Shropshire	
		Buzzard	-	?	Shropshire	
		Hen harrier	-	?	East Ayrshire	
		Hen harrier	-	?	South Lanarkshire	
		Osprey	-	?	Shropshire	
		Peregrine	-	?	Shropshire	
		June	Hen harrier	-	?	East Ayrshire
		August	Kestrel	-	1	County Durham
	September	Buzzard	-	1	Aberdeenshire	
	Unspecified	Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Falconiformes	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Buzzard	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Owls	-	?	North Yorkshire	
		Owls	-	?	North Yorkshire	
Total	0	5				

Probable – the evidence points to an illegal act as by far the most likely explanation, but the proof of the offence is not categorical.

? – no bird found, but the most likely/known target is listed.

Appendix V – confirmed poison abuse incidents during 2007

Month	Victim	No. victims	Poison	County	Bait
January	Cat	1	Bromadiolone	Tyrone	Bird x 1
January	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
January	Raven	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
January	-	?	Alphachloralose	County Durham	Rabbit x 1
January	Dog	1	Paraquat	Tyrone	-
February	Peregrine	1	Carbofuran	North Yorkshire	-
February	Dog	2	Strychnine	West Yorkshire	Meat x 1
February	Cat	1	Carbofuran	Highland	Meat
March	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	South Lanarkshire	-
March	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
March	-	?	Mevinphos / Phosdrin	Highland	Hare x 2
March	-	?	Bromadiolone	Devon	Vegetable
March	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Suffolk	-
March	Dog	2	Metaldehyde	Gloucestershire	Fat
March	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	Hare x 13
March	Carrion crow	2	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	Hare x 13
March	Magpie	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	Hare x 13
April	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
April	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	North Lanarkshire	-
April	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Highland	-
April	Lesser black backed gull	1	Alphachloralose	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
April	-	?	Alphachloralose	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
April	-	?	Alphachloralose	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
April	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	East Riding Yorkshire	-
April	Peregrine	1	Alphachloralose	Pembrokeshire	Pigeon
April	Dog	2	Bromadiolone	Fermanagh	-
April	Cat	1	Carbofuran	South Ayrshire	-
April	Cat	1	Carbofuran	South Ayrshire	-
April	Peregrine	1	Carbofuran	South Ayrshire	-
April	Buzzard	3	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
April	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
April	Dog	1	Aldicarb	Midlothian	Rabbit x 1
May	Peregrine	1	Malathion	Stirling	Pigeon x 1
May	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Highland	-
May	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Perth and Kinross	-
May	Peregrine	2	Carbofuran	Aberdeenshire	Pigeon x 1
May	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Moray	-
May	-	?	Carbofuran	North Yorkshire	Egg x 1
May	Dog	1	Aldicarb	East Riding Yorkshire	-
May	Cat	2	Metaldehyde	Northamptonshire	-
May	-	?	Carbofuran	South Ayrshire	Pigeon x 1
May	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	South Lanarkshire	-
May	-	?	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	Hare x 1
June	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Highland	Rabbit x 3
June	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Highland	Rabbit x 1

Note: items grouped in grey shading refer to one incident involving more than one species.

Appendix V – confirmed poisoning abuse incidents during 2007 (continued)

Month	Victim	No. victims	Poison	County	Bait
June	Red kite	2	Diazinon	Stirling	-
June	Red kite	1	Bromadiolone	Highland	-
June	Dog	1	Carbofuran	Armagh	Meat
June	Cat	1	Metaldehyde	Suffolk	Fish
June	-	?	Metaldehyde	Somerset	Egg x 1
July	Red kite	1	Diazinon	Stirling	-
July	Raven	1	Carbofuran	Aberdeenshire	Egg x 1
July	-	?	Ethylene glycol (antifreeze)	Angus	Bread
August	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Perth and Kinross	-
August	Golden eagle	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
August	Red kite	1	Chlorpyrifos	Stirling	-
August	Buzzard	2	Carbofuran	Denbighshire	Pheasant x 2
August	Sparrowhawk	1	Brodifacoum	Dumfries and Galloway	-
August	-	?	Metaldehyde	Nottinghamshire	Meat
September	Carriion crow	1	Mevinphos / Phosdrin	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
September	Fox	1	Mevinphos / Phosdrin	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
September	Red kite	2	Mevinphos / Phosdrin	North Yorkshire	Rabbit x 1
September	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Perth and Kinross	-
September	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
September	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Scottish Borders	-
September	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Gloucestershire	-
September	Cat	1	Aldicarb	County Durham	-
October	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Perth and Kinross	-
October	Red kite	1	Chlorpyrifos	Stirling	-
October	Ducks	20	Bendiocarb	Aberdeenshire	-
October	Dog	1	Metaldehyde	Worcestershire	Meat
November	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Shropshire	-
November	Raven	1	Carbofuran	Shropshire	-
November	-	?	Bromadiolone	Suffolk	Grain
November	Buzzard	1	Endrin	Essex	-
November	Dog	2	Endrin	Essex	-
November	Dog	2	Methiocarb	Staffordshire	-
December	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Highland	-
December	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Dumfries and Galloway	-
December	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Highland	Rabbit x 1
December	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Londonderry	-
Unspecified	Rock dove	3	Bromadiolone	Merseyside	Grain
Unspecified	-	?	Difenicoum	Cheshire	Grain

Note: items grouped in grey shading refer to one incident involving more than one species.

Appendix VI – schedule 1 nest robberies during 2007

Confirmed

Species	No. of nests	Nest content	County
Chough**	1	Chicks	Argyll and Bute
Chough**	1	Eggs	Gwynedd
Peregrine **	1	Eggs	Warwickshire
	3		

Probable

Species	No. of nests	Nest Content	County
Chough**	2	Eggs	Gwynedd
Peregrine **	1	Eggs	Cornwall
Peregrine **	1	Eggs	Warwickshire
Peregrine **	1	Eggs	Dumfries and Galloway
	5		

** Amber-listed species of medium conservation concern.

From Gregory *et al* (2002). *The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man: an analysis of conservation concern 2002–2007*. British Birds 95: 410-450.

Probable – the available evidence points to an illegal act as by far the most likely explanation, but the proof of the offence is not categorical.

Appendix VII – bird-related prosecutions in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
8/1/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Neaths Magistrates	Newman	NG	D			Case was withdrawn by RSPCA but originally defendant charged with possessing 4 wild crossbills and 1 chaffinch.
8/1/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	6(1)(A)	1	RSPCA	Neaths Magistrates	Newman	NG	D			Case was withdrawn but originally charged with possessing 2 live crossbills for the purpose of sale
24/01/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	NG	NG			Accused found not guilty of positioning poison (Carbofuran) to injure wild birds.
24/01/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	NG	NG			Found not guilty of intentionally poisoning four buzzards.
24/01/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	NG	NG			Found not guilty of using article (Carbofuran) to injure wild birds.
24/01/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	15(A)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	NG	NG			Found not guilty of possession of a proscribed pesticide (Carbofuran).
24/01/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(D)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	G	G	Ad-mon		Accused convicted of using a decoy (electronic crow caller) to kill wild birds.
24/01/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(2)	1	Fiscal	Duns Sheriff	Donaldson	G	G	Fine	£100	Accused convicted of failing to comply with conditions of firearms licence for having unsecured ammo in vehicle.
01/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	RSPCA	Doncaster Magistrates	Pickering	U	G	CSO	100 hours	Suspect convicted of killing two mute swans.
01/02/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	19	1	RSPCA	Doncaster Magistrates	Pickering	U	G			Having a loaded air weapon in a public place. Defendant charged £50 costs.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
01/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	RSPCA	Doncaster Magistrates	Town	U	G	YRO	1 Year	Suspect convicted of killing two mute swans. Defendant ordered to pay £50 costs.
23/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Teeside magistrates	Spedding	G	G	BAN & SO	2 year	Convicted for possessing a live wild gull. Defendant ordered to pay £200 costs.
27/2/07	Protection of Animals Act 1911	1(1)(A)	4	CPS	Melton Mowbray	Alexander	G	G	CSO	225 hours	Four charges of carrying out an act that resulted in the unnecessary suffering of an animal (dogs).
27/2/07	Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986	4(5)	2	CPS	Melton Mowbray	Alexander	G	G	NSP		Two charges of failing to tackle precautions when using pesticides in two different fields. Defendant ordered to pay £250 costs
28/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	1	CPS	Kings Lynn Magistrates	Zwetsloot	G	G	Fine	£100	Taking 2 common sandpiper eggs from the wild to breed birds illegally.
28/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	1	CPS	Kings Lynn Magistrates	Zwetsloot	G	G	Fine	£1400	Taking 14 oyster catcher eggs from the wild.
28/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	1	CPS	Kings Lynn Magistrates	Zwetsloot	G	G	Fine	£400	Taking 4 ringed plover eggs from the wild.
28/02/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	1	CPS	Kings Lynn Magistrates	Zwetsloot	G	G	Fine	£400	Taking 4 snipe eggs from the wild.
28/02/07	Game Act 1831	24	1	CPS	Kings Lynn Magistrates	Zwetsloot	G	G	Fine	£200	Taking 6 eggs of wild grouse without authority. Defendant ordered to pay £1875 and all birds involved with convictions were forfeited.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
05/03/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	1	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Kinsley	G	G	Jail	4 months suspended sentence	Defendant pleaded guilty to reckless disturbance of a goshawk.
05/03/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	1	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Kinsley	NG	G	NSP		Defendant found guilty of intentional disturbance of a goshawk.
05/03/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	1	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Kinsley	NG	G	NSP		Found guilty of possessing equipment capable of being used for an offence. Camera and related items seized and ordered to pay £800 costs.
05/03/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	2	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Latham	NG	NG			Found not guilty of one charge of reckless disturbance and another of intentional disturbance of a goshawk at the nest with eggs.
05/03/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Latham	NG	NG			Found not guilty of possessing equipment capable of an offence.
14/03/06	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(1)(B)	1	CPS	Telford Magistrates	Morris	G	G	Con Dis		Possessing ammunition with a certificate. Defendant ordered to pay £300 costs.
14/03/06	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(2)	1	CPS	Telford Magistrates	Morris	G	G	Con Dis		Failing to comply with conditions of firearms certificate.
14/03/06	Fire Arms Act 1968	2(2)	2	CPS	Telford Magistrates	Morris	G	G	Con Dis		Failing to comply with conditions of shotgun certificate.
14/03/06	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	3	CPS	Telford Magistrates	Morris	G	G	Con Dis		Illegal storage of Cymag and Carbofuran pesticides and unsafe storage of Aldicarb.
14/03/06	Protection of Animals Act 1911	8(B)	1	CPS	Telford Magistrates	Morris	G	G	Con Dis		Laying a pigeon bait laced with the pesticide Aldicarb

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
30/04/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	15(A)	2	Fiscal	Elgin Sheriff	Royan	G	G	Fine	£250	Accused convicted of two charges of being in possession of proscribed pesticides (Carbofuran and Alphachloralose).
30/04/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	15(A)	1	Fiscal	Elgin Sheriff	Royan	NG	NG			Accused found not guilty of being in passion of a proscribed pesticide (Cymag).
30/04/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	Fiscal	Elgin Sheriff	Royan	G	G	Fine	£250	Possession of an item capable of an offence, which was a bottle of Carbofuran.
30/04/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(2)	1	Fiscal	Elgin Sheriff	Royan	G	G	Fine	£250	Failing to comply with conditions of firearms certificate by having 139 rounds of ammunition unsecured.
1/5/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Perth Sheriff	Campbell	NG	NP			Defendant charged with taking a buzzard from the wild, but case was not proven.
04/06/07	Common Law (Scotland)	-	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	NG	NG			Found not guilty of culpable and reckless conduct.
04/06/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(2)	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	NG	NG			Found not guilty of failing to comply with conditions of firearms licence.
04/06/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	2(2)	2	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	NG	NG			Found not guilty of two charges of failing to comply with conditions of shotgun licence.
04/06/07	Protection of Animals Act 1911	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	G	G	CSO	27 hours	Convicted of carrying out an act resulting in an animal suffering unnecessarily.

(Case continues on next page)

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
(Case continued from previous page)											
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	NG	NG			Found not guilty of intentionally killing two ravens.
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	11(1)(A) & 21(1)	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	NG	NG			Found not guilty of setting snares to injure a wild animal.
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	15(A)	2	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	G	G	CSO	27 hours	Convicted of two charges of possession of proscribed pesticides.
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	2	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	G	G	CSO	27 hours	Convicted of two charges of possessing items capable of an offence.
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(A)	2	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	G	G	CSO	27 hours	Convicted of positioning an article to injure a wild bird.
04/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	1	Fiscal	Selkirk Sheriff	Aitken	G	G	CSO	27 hours	Convicted of using an article to kill a wild bird. Four raptor traps seized to be used in raptor study.
06/06/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	DEFRA	Bromley Magistrates	Chung	G	G	Fine	£3200	Convicted of using Carbofuran (contrary to section 4(5)(A) of the Control of Pesticide Regulation 1986), which killed several foxes.
06/06/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	DEFRA	Bromley Magistrates	Chung	G	G	NSP		Illegal storage of Carbofuran under section 4(4)(A) of the Control of Pesticide Regulation 1986. Defendant also ordered to pay £1600 costs.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
08/06/07	Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Reg. 1997	8(1)	2	CPS	Skegness Magistrates	Sweetman	G	G	Con Dis	6 months	Selling two Moluccan Cockatoos to different buyers without article 10 certificates. The birds are to remain with owners and defendant ordered to pay £120 costs plus £200 compensation to each buyer.
20/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Fareham Magistrates	Osbourne	U	G	CSO	18 hours	Convicted for being in possession of a wild rock dove. Ordered to pay £50 costs.
28/06/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(B)	1	RSPCA	St Helens Magistrates	Birchall	G	G	Fine	£800	Destroying the active nests of swallows. Ordered to pay £100 costs.
24/07/07	Protection of Animals Act 1911	1(1)(A)	1	RSPCA	Epping Magistrates	Souter	G	G	CSO	80 hours	Convicting of carrying out cats that resulted in the unnecessary suffering of animals.
24/07/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Epping Magistrates	Souter	G	G	Fine	£1000	Possession of live wild birds, including 8 greenfinches, 7 goldfinches, a linnet and a bullfinch. The defendant was also given a 5 year ban on keeping birds.
26/07/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	NG	G	Fine	£1000	Contravening regulations relating to pesticides, namely Neosorex.
26/07/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	G	G	Fine	£500	Contravening regulations relating to pesticides, namely Duplosan.
Case continues on next page											

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
(Case continued from previous page)											
26/07/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	G	G	Fine	£500	Contravening regulations relating to pesticides, namely Aphox. Ordered to pay £50 costs
26/07/07	Protection of Animals Act 1911	8(B)	2	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	NG	NG			Defendant found not guilty of knowingly placing a poison.
26/07/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(A)	2	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	NG	NG			Found not guilty of using an article to injure a wild bird.
26/07/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	2	CPS	Doncaster Magistrates	Woolhouse	NG	NG			Found not guilty of using an article to kill a wild bird.
31/07/07	Fire Arms Act 1968	1(2)	1	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	Phillips	G	G	Fine	£100	Failing to comply with conditions of firearms certificate. 2 charges, one for the unapproved storage of
31/07/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	2	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	Phillips	G	G	Fine	£2000	Carbofuran and the other for the unsafe storage of strychnine, £100 fine for each and £118 costs.
31/07/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	5	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	Phillips	G	G	NSP		Five charges including unapproved storage of Carbofuran, Cymag and Mevinphos and unsafe storage of Difenicoum and Alphoshide.
31/07/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	Phillips	NG	D			Charge of possessing an item (poisoning kit) capable of an offence was discontinued.
3/08/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	RSPCA	Worcester Magistrates	Long	G	G	Fine	£400	Taking a live goldfinch from the wild.
3/08/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Worcester Magistrates	Long	NG	G	NSP		Possessing two wild goldfinches, defendant ordered to pay £800 costs.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Purcell	G	G	Fine	£700	Accused convicted of killing a wild barnacle goose.
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Saxon	G	G	Fine	£700	Accused convicted of killing a wild barnacle goose.
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Brown	NG	NG			Found not guilty of killing a barnacle goose.
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Oldroyd	NG	NG			Found not guilty of killing a barnacle goose.
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Vamplew	NG	NG			Found not guilty of killing a barnacle goose.
25/09/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	Fiscal	Aberdeen Sheriff	Wardle	NG	NG			Found not guilty of killing a barnacle goose.
27/09/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	1	CPS	Berwick Magistrates	McMorn	G	G	Fine	£300	Unapproved storage of Carbofuran. Accused also ordered to pay £70 costs.
27/09/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	3	CPS	Berwick Magistrates	McMorn	G	G	Fine	£300	Three charges, including unapproved use of Carbofuran, unsafe storage of Phostoxin and storage of Cymag.
23/10/07	Animal Welfare Act 2006	9 & 32(2)	1	CPS	Sunderland Magistrates	Colwill	G	G	Fine	£200	Convicted for failing to take reasonable steps to meet the needs of three finches.
23/10/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(1)	2	CPS	Sunderland Magistrates	Colwill	U	D			Two charges of attempting to commit offences under Wildlife & Countryside Act discontinued.
23/10/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	CPS	Sunderland Magistrates	Colwill	U	D			Charge of possessing item capable of offence discontinued.
23/10/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	2	CPS	Sunderland Magistrates	Colwill	G	G	Fine	£400	Found guilty of two charges of using a trap to take a wild sparrowhawk, fined £200 for each and £60 costs. Traps and 3 finches also seized.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
15/11/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	CPS	Newton Aycliffe Magistrates	Robinson	G	G	CSO	100 hours	Defendant convicted of possessing a wild gold finch.
15/11/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	CPS	Newton Aycliffe Magistrates	Robinson	G	G	NSP		Controlling wild goldfinch, defendant ordered to pay £320 in costs.
19/11/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	RSPCA	Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates	Brown	U	G	Curfew order	2 month	Possessing 8 wild bullfinches and 9 goldfinches. Defendant ordered to pay £400 costs.
27/11/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(B)	2	CPS	Coventry Magistrates	Wheal	G	G	Jail	26 weeks concurrent	Convicted of two charges, one for possessing 4 wild peregrine eggs and another for possessing 6 raven eggs. Given 26 weeks imprisonment for each to run concurrently.
27/11/07	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	CPS	Coventry Magistrates	Wheal	G	G	Jail	26 weeks concurrent	Possession of article capable of being used to commit an offence.
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	4	CPS		Brito-De-Cunha	NG	D			Four charges of contravening the regulations regarding the storage of pesticides (Phostoxin and Flocoumafen) were discontinued.
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	4	CPS		Brito-De-Cunha	G	G	Fine	£1000	Convicted of the illegal storage of Bromadiolone.
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	4	CPS		Brito-De-Cunha	G	G	Fine	£2500	Failure to provide adequate instruction on how to use and store pesticides. Ordered to pay £400 additional costs.

Reported offences against wild bird legislation in 2007

Date	Act	Section	Charges	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Plea	Ocm	Type	Penalty	Details
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	2	CPS	Devizes Magistrates	Smart	NG	D			Charges of illegal storage of Flocomafen/ Bromadiolone and the use of Flocomafen discontinued.
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(A)	5	CPS	Devizes Magistrates	Smart	G	G	Fine	£500	Five charges of contravening pesticide regulations involving the illegal storage and use of phostoxin and use of Bromadiolone, and failure to keep records.
18/12/07	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	18(2)	1	CPS	Devizes Magistrates	Smart	NG	D			Charge of possessing an article capable of an offence (poisoning kit) discontinued.

Key to appendix VII

Con Dis	Conditional discharge	Ocm	Outcome
CSO	Community service order	SO	Supervision order
D	Discontinued	U	Unknown
G	Guilty	YRO	Youth referral order
NG	Not guilty	BAN	Ban on keeping birds
NP	Not proven		