

# Appendix 1

## Data summary 2018

### Raptor persecution (see also Appendices 2 and 4)

In 2018, the RSPB Investigations team recorded a total of 87 confirmed raptor persecution incidents. These are mapped to an Ordnance Survey 10km grid square (see Appendix 4) and can be broken down further into the following incident types:

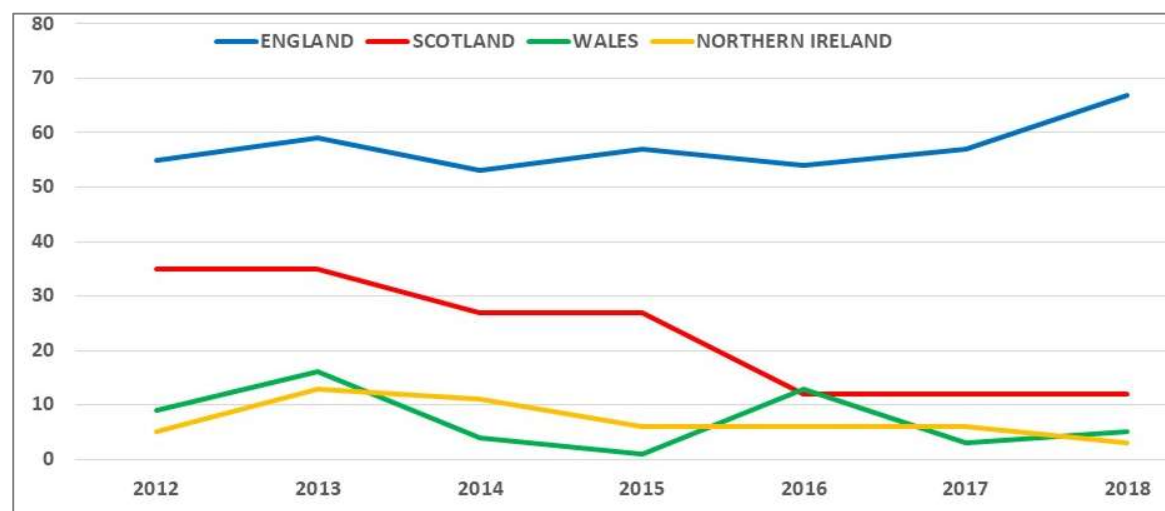
- **41 confirmed shooting or attempted shooting incidents.** Victims included 14 buzzards, 11 red kites, three goshawks, three peregrines, two barn owls, two sparrowhawks, one hen harrier, one marsh harrier and one short-eared owl.
- **28 confirmed poisoning (pesticide) abuse incidents.** Victims included 15 red kites, 12 buzzards and three peregrines.
- **16 confirmed trapping incidents.** Victims included five buzzards, four tawny owls, one hen harrier, one merlin, one hobby, one red kite, one barn owl and one sparrowhawk.
- **2 confirmed “other” persecution incidents** involving hen harriers.
- **Victim total: 86.** Species split: 31 buzzards, 27 red kites, six peregrines, five tawny owls, four hen harriers, three goshawks, three sparrowhawks, three barn owls, one marsh harrier, one short-eared owl, one merlin and one hobby.

For detailed table and map of raptor persecution see Appendices 2 and 4. To see the most complete, centralised set of known confirmed raptor persecution incidents in the UK, including 2018 data, see our interactive Raptor Persecution Map Hub: [rspb.org.uk/raptormap](https://rspb.org.uk/raptormap)

### UK breakdown of 2018 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents:

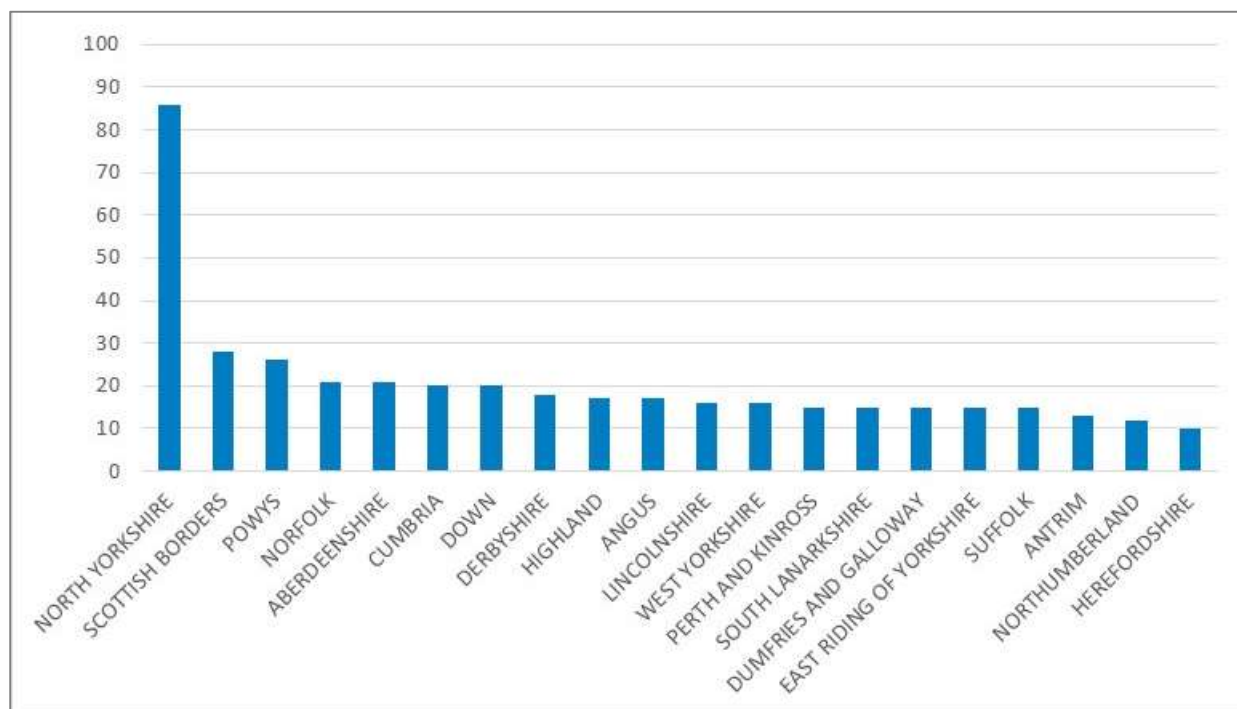
- 67 (77%) of confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents occurred in England
- 12 (14%) occurred in Scotland
- 5 (6%) occurred in Wales
- 3 (3%) occurred in Northern Ireland.

Fig.1 Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2012–2018 split into UK countries



Note: these incidents represent a fraction of those that occur as many go undetected. Conclusions that can be drawn from these figures in isolation are limited. See ‘Explanatory notes’ for bigger picture scientific studies.

Fig. 2 Number of confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2012–2018: worst 20 UK counties



## Non-raptor persecution

### Wild bird poisoning

There were two confirmed wild bird poisoning incidents (other than raptor persecution incidents). See Appendix 3 for details.

### Other offences:

#### Trade in wild birds and taxidermy

- 36 reports of illegal taking, possession or sale of wild birds other than birds of prey (predominantly finches)
- Three reports of illegal taxidermy
- 20 reports of illegal taking, possession or sale of birds of prey.

#### Egg collecting and nest robberies.

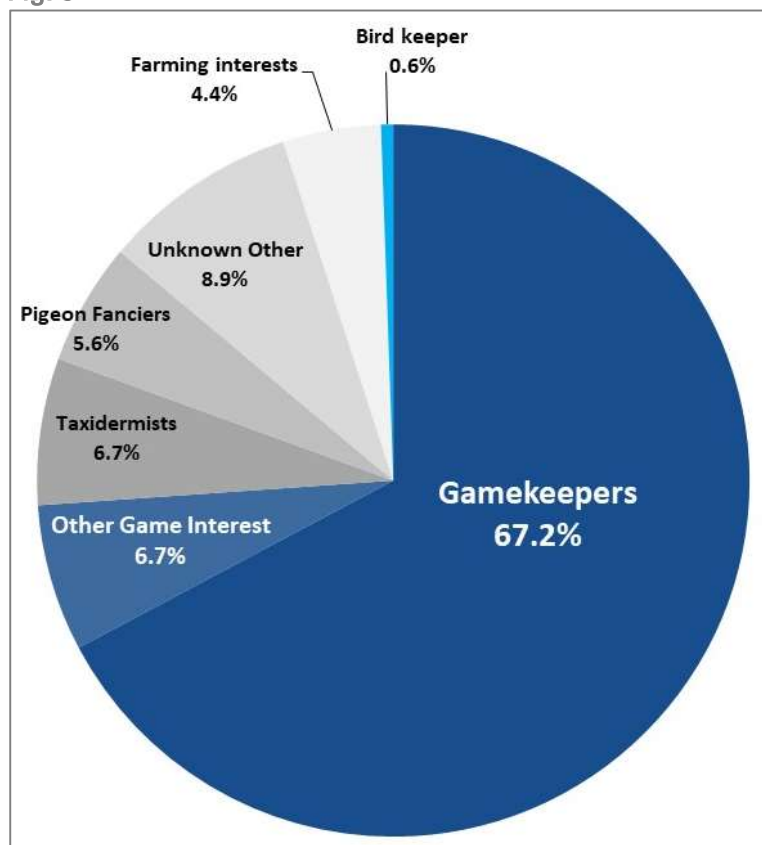
- 14 reported incidents of egg collecting and egg thefts. In relation to Schedule 1 species these included:
- One confirmed egg robbery involving one stone curlew nest, and 10 probable incidents of egg or chick robberies from individual peregrine falcon nests.
- More than 40 reports of eggs being illegally sold.

## Prosecutions

There were 16 bird crime prosecutions (see also Appendix 5). These involved a total of 69 charges; 52 (75%) of these resulted in a guilty outcome. Fines for the year amounted to £4,730 and five individuals were given a prison sentence for their crimes: one of these was custodial, the remaining four were suspended sentences.

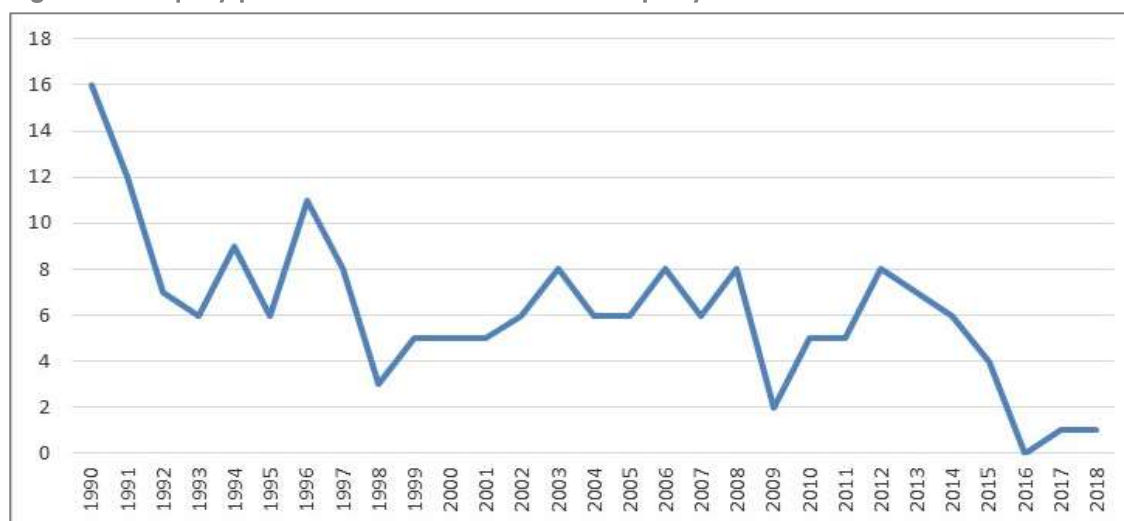
In 2018 there were just two bird of prey persecution-related prosecutions: only one led to a conviction, and the other was controversially discontinued (see Appendix 5).

**Fig. 3**



The occupations or interests of the 180 individuals convicted of bird of prey persecution-related offences 1990–2018

**Fig. 4** Bird of prey persecution-related convictions per year 1990–2018



# Appendix 2

## 2018 Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents (including poisoning)

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
Shooting or attempted shooting	Jan	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Cumbria	NY45
	Jan	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Cambridgeshire	TF10
	Feb	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Powys	SJ12
	Feb	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE36
	Feb	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	South Lanarkshire	NS81
	Feb	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Cambridgeshire	TL39
	Mar	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Warwickshire	SP57
	Mar	Goshawk	1	NA	NA	Aberdeenshire	NO76
	Mar	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Norfolk	TG32
	Mar	Barn owl	1	NA	NA	Hampshire	SU72
	Apr	Red kite	1	NA	NA	County Durham	NZ04
	Apr	Barn owl	1	NA	NA	Kent	TR07
	Apr	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	Gloucestershire	SO81
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Devon	SX86
	May	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Dorset	SY49
	May	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Cornwall	SW94
	May	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Middlesbrough	NZ61
	May	Red kite	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE34
	May	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE26
	May	Goshawk	1	NA	NA	South Yorkshire	SK29
	May	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Kent	TQ93
	Jun	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Greater Manchester	SE00
	Jun	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Herefordshire	SO52
	Jul	Red kite	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE05
	Jul	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Northamptonshire	SP99
	Jul	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Buckinghamshire	SP61
	Jul	Long-eared owl	T	NA	NA	County Durham	NZ23
	Aug	Short-eared owl	T	NA	NA	County Durham	NY90
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	East Riding of Yorkshire	SE85
	Sep	Short-eared owl	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE00
	Sep	Marsh harrier	1	NA	NA	Lincolnshire	SE92
	Sep	Red kite	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE16
	Oct	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Hertfordshire	TL24
	Oct	Tawny owl	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE00
	Oct	Red kite	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE16
	Oct	Red kite	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE06
	Nov	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE63

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
	Nov	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Northamptonshire	SP86
	Nov	Hen harrier	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE17
	Nov	Goshawk	1	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK18
	Unk	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	South Lanarkshire	NS81
	Number of birds		39				
Illegal pole or spring trapping	Feb	Barn owl	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE87
	Mar	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Isle of Wight	SZ58
	May	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Ceredigion	SN67
	Jul	Merlin	1	NA	NA	Northumberland	NT92
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE46
	Sep	Tawny owl	1	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU26
	Sep	Birds of prey	T	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU26
	Sep	Tawny owl	1	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU26
	Sep	Hobby	1	NA	NA	Isle of Wight	SZ59
	Oct	Tawny owl	1	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU26
	Oct	Birds of prey	T	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU26
	Nov	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	North Somerset	ST68
	Nov	Hen harrier	1	NA	NA	Perth And Kinross	NN84
	Number of birds		11				
Illegal trapping (other)	Sep	Tawny owl	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE04
	Oct	Buzzard	2	NA	NA	Gloucestershire	SP11
	Oct	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Highland	NH73
	Number of birds		4				
Other	Nov	Hen harrier [#1]	T	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE17
	April	Hen harrier [#2]	2	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SD93
	Number of birds		2				
Poisoning	Jan	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Unknown	North Yorkshire	NZ60
	Jan	Red kite	1	Withheld	Unknown	Dumfries and Galloway	NX77
	Feb	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Lincolnshire	TF02
	Mar	Raven	1	Aldicarb	Unknown	South Yorkshire	SK19
	Mar	Buzzard	2	Carbofuran, Carbaryl	Unknown	Vale of Glamorgan	SS97
		Peregrine falcon	1				
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Suffolk	TL87
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Withheld	Unknown	Dumfries and Galloway	NX67
	Apr	Red kite	2	Carbofuran	Unknown	Down	J14
	Apr	Carrion crow	1	Diazinon	Lamb	Shropshire	SO18
		Raven	5				
	Apr	Red kite	1	Withheld	Unknown	Dumfries and Galloway	NX77
	Apr	Red kite	1	Withheld	Unknown	Dumfries and Galloway	NX76
	Apr	Buzzard	2	Withheld	Unknown	Perth And Kinross	NN85
		Dog	3				
	Apr	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	Herefordshire	SO42

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
	Apr	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Bridgend	SS88
	May	Peregrine falcon	1	Withheld	Unknown	Midlothian	NT16
	Jul	Peregrine falcon	1	Carbofuran	Pigeon	Tyrone	H27
	Aug	Buzzard	1	Aldicarb	Unknown	East Riding of Yorkshire	SE85
	Aug	Raven	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Wrexham	SJ24
	Sep	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Northamptonshire	SP66
	Oct	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	Armagh	H84
	Oct	Buzzard	2	Bendiocarb	Pheasant	Worcestershire	SO67
	Oct	Red kite	1	Alphachloralose, Bendiocarb, Carbofuran, Isofenphos	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE16
	Oct	Birds of prey	B	Difenacoum	Rabbit	North Yorkshire	SE97
	Nov	Buzzard	1	Withheld	Unknown	East Ayrshire	NS42
	Nov	Red kite	2	Aldicarb	Unknown	Herefordshire	SO36
	Dec	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE86
	Dec	Red kite	1	Aldicarb	Unknown	Herefordshire	SO36
	Dec	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	Herefordshire	SO42
	Number of birds		38				

The above shows confirmed raptor persecution incidents where raptors were victims, targeted or vulnerable eg to a poisoned bait.

“T” indicates known target species.

“B” indicates that a bait was found, victims unknown.

Grey shading shows one incident spanning more than one row in the table because it involves more than one species or offence type or category.

For a definition of “confirmed”, please see the explanatory notes at the end of these Appendices.

Persecution “other” captures confirmed persecution incidents that do not fall to the other categories of shooting, trapping, nest destruction or poisoning. For example, this could include: killing or attempted killing using other means; possession of equipment capable of being used to commit an offence (where there is supporting evidence or intelligence of sufficient standard to substantiate that birds of prey are the intended target) eg possession of a banned pesticide for use in poisoned baits.

#1: confirmed incident involving the possession of a firearm where circumstances indicate the targeting of hen harriers at a roost site.

#2: confirmed incident where the circumstances indicate deliberate disturbance of a nesting pair of hen harriers, which is believed to have resulted in the failure of the nesting attempt.

Explore our UK map of confirmed raptor persecution incidents at [rspb.org.uk/raptormap](https://rspb.org.uk/raptormap)

The data above were extracted from RSPB database on 29 July 2019 and were accurate at time of extraction but are constantly being updated and may be subject to change. Additional incidents or details may be added retrospectively pending release from statutory agencies or other sources.

## Appendix 3

### 2018 Confirmed poison abuse incidents (excluding raptor persecution)

Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
Feb	*Hooded crow	3	Carbofuran	Unknown	Down	J58
May	*Cat	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	Armagh	J46

The above shows confirmed poison abuse incidents involving species other than raptors (for raptor persecution poison abuse incidents see Appendix 2).

For a definition of “confirmed” please see the explanatory notes at the end of these Appendices.

The data above were extracted from RSPB database on 29 July 2019 and were accurate at time of extraction but are constantly being updated and may be subject to change. Additional incidents or details may be added retrospectively pending release from statutory agencies or other sources.

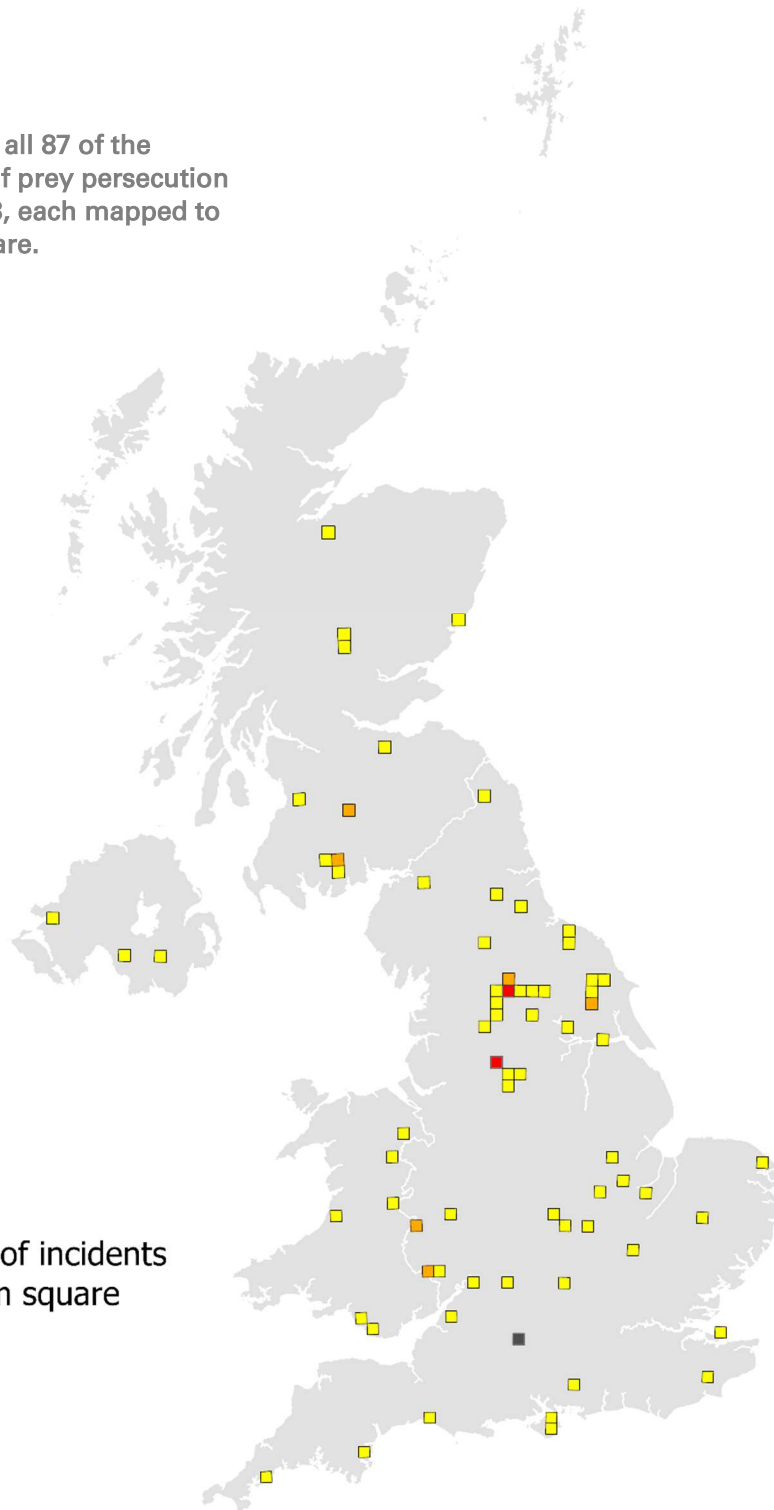
\* Note that additional details are pending for these incidents which may result in their re-classification as raptor persecution incidents on our database, and their retrospective addition to the UK map of confirmed raptor persecution incidents at [rspb.org.uk/raptormap](https://www.rspb.org.uk/raptormap).

# Appendix 4

## 2018 Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents – UK map

This map shows all 87 of the confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in 2018, each mapped to a 10km grid square.

Number of incidents  
per 10km square



To see an interactive version of this map, including more years' worth of data, visit our interactive Raptor Persecution Map Hub: [rspb.org.uk/raptormap](https://rspb.org.uk/raptormap)



## Appendix 5 wild bird crime prosecutions in 2018

Date	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Act	Section / Reg	No of Charges	Plea	Out-come	Penalty Type 1	Penalty 1 Details	Penalty Type 2	Penalty 2 Details	Summary
15/02/2018	RSPCA	Plymouth Magistrates	Bowker	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	NG	G	Fine	£506			Defendant was found guilty of intentionally killing two herring gull chicks with a spade-like object. Fined £506, ordered to pay £750 costs (to the RSPCA), and a £50 victim surcharge.
19/02/2018	Fiscal	Inverness Sheriff	Taylor	Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Reg. 1997	8(1)	1	G	G	Fine	£750			Accused pleaded guilty to keeping parts of protected species for sale, including various feathers and bird derivatives; 11 of these items contained parts of protected species including buzzard, barn owl and tawny owl. Fined £750.
28/03/2018	CPS	Preston Magistrates	Hartley	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1)	1	NG	D					Defendant (gamekeeper) was charged with nine offences relating to trapping and shooting of two peregrines. Following a legal hearing on 28 March 2018 the RSPB covert footage was ruled inadmissible and the CPS discontinued the case.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	2	NG	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	NG	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	3	NG	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(A)	1	NG	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	1	NG	D					
30/04/2018	CPS	Southampton Magistrates	Sheen	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1)	1	U	G	CO	Total 260 hours			*Defendant was found guilty of three charges of attempting to injure wild birds (mute swans) and one of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. Ordered to carry out 260 hours of unpaid work within a year and banned from visiting Riverside Park, Fordingbridge or the river for 12 months. Disqualified from owning or controlling any dog for two years (expires July 2020). Both of the defendant's dogs were taken away. (Final hearing was in April 2018 - exact date pending clarification.)
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(1)	3	U	G	CO				

Date	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Act	Section / Reg	No of Charges	Plea	Out-come	Penalty Type 1	Penalty 1 Details	Penalty Type 2	Penalty 2 Details	Summary
03/05/2018	CPS	Plymouth Magistrates	North	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	1	G	G	Jail	6 weeks suspended for 12 months	Fine & CU	£665 and 10 week curfew 9pm–6am	Defendant pleaded guilty to eight charges of disturbing rare breeding birds (golden eagle, osprey, peregrine and little ringed plover) and taking osprey eggs. He received a six-week jail sentence suspended for a year, a £665 fine, £750 costs, £115 victim surcharge and a 10-week curfew 9pm–6am.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	8	G	G	Jail				
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(C)	2	U	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(B)	1	U	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(A)	1	U	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	U	D					
16/05/2018	RSPCA	Swansea Magistrates	P. Baker	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1)	2	G	G	CO	Total 12 months	Fine	£200 total	* Defendant (along with his son and co-defendant) pleaded guilty to a number of offences including admission that actions led to unnecessary suffering, after illegally keeping a wild goshawk and failing to ensure urgent veterinary treatment for the bird's severely broken wing. Sentenced to a 12-month community order, and a 10-day rehabilitation activity requirement. Banned from keeping any bird for a period of four years. Also fined £200, ordered to pay £300 costs and £85 victim surcharge.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	G	G	CO				
16/05/2018	RSPCA	Swansea Magistrates	J. Baker	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1)	3	G	G	Jail	Total 12 week suspended	Fine	£200	* Defendant (along with his father and co-defendant) pleaded guilty to a number of offences including admission that actions led to unnecessary suffering, after illegally keeping a wild goshawk and failing to ensure urgent veterinary treatment for the bird's severely broken wing. Defendant also offered the goshawk for sale contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Sentenced to a 12-week suspended prison sentence, a ban on keeping any bird for a period of four years and ordered to undertake a 20-day rehabilitation activity requirement. He was also told to pay a £200 fine, £300 costs and a £115 victim surcharge. The court gave the defendant a two-month period to make new arrangements for a Harris' hawk presently in his possession.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	6(1)(A)	2	G	G	Jail				
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	G	G	Jail				

Date	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Act	Section / Reg	No of Charges	Plea	Out-come	Penalty Type 1	Penalty 1 Details	Penalty Type 2	Penalty 2 Details	Summary
02/08/2018	CPS	Bristol Magistrates	Oleksiak	Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	170(2) (B)	1	G	G	CO	20 hrs unpaid work (consec.)			Defendant pleaded guilty to ten charges: nine related to prohibited sale of Annex A specimens contrary to the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 (COTES) namely four goshawks, two eagle owls, one buzzard, one sparrowhawk and one otter; and one charge of fraudulently evading export restrictions on a specimen (eagle owl) exported to the USA without a CITES permit, contrary to Section 170 of Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 (CEMA). Sentenced to a 12-month Community Order, to carry out a total of 100 hours unpaid work, and to pay £170 costs. Three taxidermy items (goshawks) were forfeited.
				Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Reg. 1997	8(1)	9	G	G	CO	80 hrs unpaid work (consec.)			
28/08/2018	CPS	Lancaster Magistrates	Cowin	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	2	G	G	Fine	£800			Defendant (gamekeeper) pleaded guilty to the shooting of two short-eared owls and possession of a Foxpro electronic calling device which had calls of numerous birds of prey added to the device. Fined £400 for killing each owl and £200 for possessing the calling device, which was forfeited by the court. He was ordered to pay £170 costs and a £40 victim surcharge.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	G	G	Fine	£200			
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	NG	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(D)	1	NG	D					
12/09/2018	RSPCA	Truro Magistrates	Mosley	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1	1	G	G	CU	Four weeks, Friday–Sunday 7pm–7am			Defendant admitted shooting two nesting herring gulls with an air weapon. Ordered to obey a four-week curfew every Friday to Sunday from 7pm until 7am, and to pay £385 court costs and forfeit air weapon to the court for destruction.
27/09/2018	CPS	Caernarfon Magistrates	Wright	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	7(1)	2	G	G	CD	12 months			Defendant (falconer) pleaded guilty to possession of a wild bird (peregrine) and failure to register a Schedule 4 bird (peregrine). Given a 12-month conditional discharge, ordered to pay £85 costs and £20 victim surcharge.
08/10/2018	RSPCA	Medway Magistrates	Henderson	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	G	G	CU	Total three months 8pm–8am			*Defendant pleaded guilty to three charges contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, including possession of wild birds (five goldfinches, a bullfinch and a greenfinch). Two other charges: taking wild birds, and using article to take wild birds, are assumed based on information about this case, but may be subject to correction. Sentenced to a three month 8pm–8am curfew and ordered to pay £300 costs.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	G	G	CU				
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	1	G	G	CU				

Date	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Act	Section / Reg	No of Charges	Plea	Out-come	Penalty Type 1	Penalty 1 Details	Penalty Type 2	Penalty 2 Details	Summary
12/10/2018	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	Lamar	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	7(1)	1	G	G	Jail	Total 18 weeks suspended for 12 months	CO	Total 120 hours	Defendant (falconer) pleaded guilty to possessing a wild peregrine falcon and keeping an unregistered Schedule 4 bird contrary to Sections 1 and 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, ordered to complete 120 hours unpaid work and to pay £1,020 costs and £115 surcharge. Also disqualified from keeping Schedule 4 birds, which includes peregrines, for a period of five years.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	G	G	Jail		CO		
12/11/2018	RSPCA	Medway Magistrates	Gadzor	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(B)	1	G	G	CU	Total 28 days 7pm–7am			Defendant pleaded guilty to three charges relating to the taking and possession of wild birds (finches), including possessing two wild finches, using an article to take wild birds and possessing items capable of taking wild birds. Sentenced to a 28-day curfew from 7pm to 7am and ordered to pay £300 costs and an £85 victim surcharge.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(A)	1	G	G	CU				
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	G	D	CU				
27/11/2018	CPS	Norwich Magistrates	Lingham	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	2	G	G	Jail	Total 18 weeks	CBO	10 years	Defendant pleaded guilty to four charges relating to the taking and possession of over 4000 wild birds' eggs including 75 eggs from Schedule 1 species (including barn owl, woodlark, marsh harrier, little ringed plover and kingfisher); 681 from red-listed birds including lapwings, cuckoos, turtle doves, willow tits, marsh tits, nightingales, linnets and yellowhammers; and 109 nightjar eggs. Sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment and a 10-year Criminal Behaviour Order restricting him from visiting nature reserves and nightjar breeding sites in Norfolk during breeding season. Defendant faces jail for up to five years if this is breached.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(B)	1	G	G					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(C)	1	G	G					
13/12/2018	CPS	Nottingham Magistrates	Jamson	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(A)	1	G	G	Jail	One month suspended for one year			*Defendant pleaded guilty to killing a wild bird (greylag goose) during closed season. Sentenced to spend a month in a young offenders' institution, suspended for a year. Ordered to pay £85 costs and £115 surcharge. (Court and final hearing date may be subject to correction.)

### Key to Appendix 5

<b>CD</b>	Conditional Discharge	<b>CBO</b>	Criminal Behaviour Order	<b>CU</b>	Curfew Order
<b>D</b>	Discontinued	<b>G</b>	Guilty	<b>NCA</b>	No Case to Answer
<b>NG</b>	Not Guilty	<b>NP</b>	Not Proven	<b>NSP</b>	No Separate Penalty
<b>U</b>	Unknown	<b>YRO</b>	Youth Referral Order	<b>Text</b>	Denotes raptor persecution case

\* Details may be incomplete/subject to correction

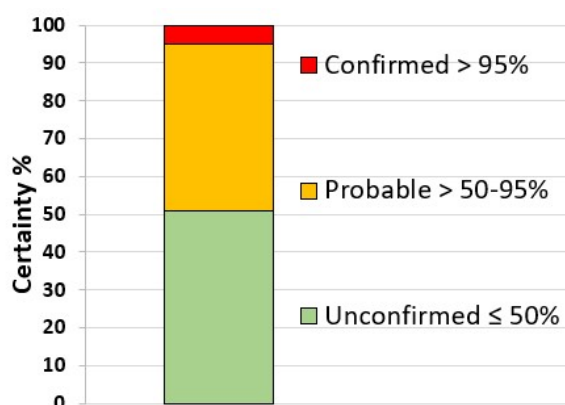
Note that the number of prosecutions listed above for 2018 will be lower than the true figure, particularly for categories involving species that are not of conservation concern. We endeavour to keep our records as up to date and accurate as possible. If you spot an error or omission, please email us at [crime@rspb.org.uk](mailto:crime@rspb.org.uk)

# Explanatory notes

The RSPB's *Birdcrime* report summarises offences against wild bird legislation that are collated by the RSPB each year. We've published the report annually since 1990: it is the only centralised source of incident data for UK wild bird crime.

The report focuses on crimes of higher conservation concern, such as bird of prey persecution and threats to rare breeding birds. The data is gathered by the RSPB Investigations Team, a specialist unit set up to assist the statutory agencies with the investigation and prosecution of crimes against wild birds. The team includes specialist officers with investigative (field-based) and intelligence (office-based) capability.

Incidents of bird crime are rigorously and consistently recorded by the RSPB into three categories based on certainty:



**Confirmed:** Circumstances indicate that an illegal act has taken place. These incidents are typically substantiated by evidence such as post-mortem or toxicological analysis, or reliable eyewitness evidence.

**Probable:** the circumstances indicate that the most likely explanation is that an illegal act has taken place.

**Unconfirmed:** the circumstances indicate that an illegal act has possibly taken place.

"Confirmed" incidents are the primary focus for published figures due to their high evidential weighting – but note this report and associated mapped data represents only a fraction of the incidents that occur. Many incidents are simply not detected or reported because they often take place in remote and private locations. Also note that some incidents are not permitted for release: for example, whole incidents, or partial details, may be withheld to protect an ongoing investigation or at request of enforcement partners. Incidents and details may therefore be added retrospectively to future editions of *Birdcrime*, and to the associated Raptor Persecution Map Hub [rspb.org.uk/raptormap](https://rspb.org.uk/raptormap).

The RSPB has been recording wildlife crime consistently for several decades. The figures in annual *Birdcrime* reports may vary from other published reports, because data sets compiled for different purposes, using very different methods, are unlikely to be directly comparable. Note that figures featured in this report were accurate at time of extraction, 29 July 2019 but are constantly being updated and may be subject to change. If you spot an error or omission email us at [crime@rspb.org.uk](mailto:crime@rspb.org.uk).

Toxicology results from the government's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) form the primary source of wildlife poisoning data included in *Birdcrime* reports. In isolated cases, toxicology results may be obtained via other routes eg where victims or baits have not been accepted for analysis via the government schemes, so private analysis has been undertaken. The RSPB is the only organisation to present pesticide analysis data in a standardised format to reflect actual wildlife crime incidents.

Conclusions that can be drawn from annual crime figures alone are limited. A more complete picture of the severe effect that illegal killing is having on national populations of wild birds can be gauged through long-term, systematic scientific study of bird populations, including:

- The article in *Nature Communications* published March 2019 on patterns of satellite tagged hen harrier disappearances [nature.com/articles/s41467-019-09044-w](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-09044-w)
- The rigorous Conservation Framework reports by
  - Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on golden eagles [nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-193-conservation-framework-golden-eagle-implications-conservation-and](https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-193-conservation-framework-golden-eagle-implications-conservation-and))
  - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on hen harriers (<http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/page-5775#download>).
- A range of peer-reviewed scientific publications that demonstrate the impacts of persecution on species including red kites ([nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-904-population-modelling-north-scotland-red-kites-relation-cumulative](https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-904-population-modelling-north-scotland-red-kites-relation-cumulative)) and peregrines ([sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320711003831](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320711003831)).
- The SNH review published May 2017 which showed that almost a third of golden eagles fitted with satellite tags disappeared in suspicious circumstances: [nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-982-analyses-fates-satellite-tracked-golden-eagles-scotland](https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-982-analyses-fates-satellite-tracked-golden-eagles-scotland)
- The British Birds paper showing the link between raptor persecution and land managed for driven grouse shooting in the Peak District National Park: [britishbirds.co.uk/raptor-persecution/](https://www.britishbirds.co.uk/raptor-persecution/)

For additional literature, material and a variety of scientific publications relating to raptor persecution, visit the 'Resources' section of *Operation Owl* here: [operationowl.com/literature](https://www.operationowl.com/literature)

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- Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate (SGRPID)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- UK veterinary practices
- The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI NI)
- Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Welsh Government