

Appendix 1

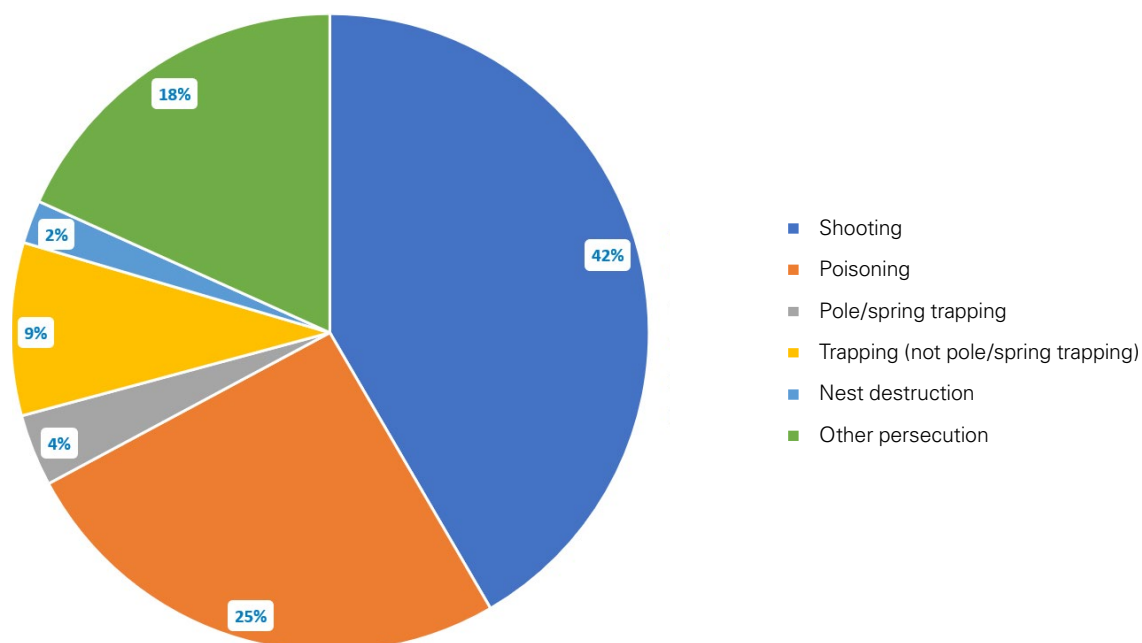
Data summary 2020

Raptor persecution (see also Appendices 2 and 4)

In 2020, the RSPB Investigations Team recorded 137* confirmed raptor (bird of prey) persecution incidents. These are mapped to a 10-km grid square (see Appendix 4) and can be broken down further into the following incident types:

- **57 confirmed shooting or attempted shooting incidents.** Victims included 31 buzzards, nine peregrines, five red kites, three sparrowhawks, two kestrels, two short-eared owls, one hen harrier, one golden eagle, one goshawk, one 'withheld' species and one hobby.
- **35 confirmed poison (pesticide) abuse incidents.** Victims included 13 buzzards, nine red kites, seven peregrines, one white-tailed eagle, one goshawk and one kestrel.
- **25 confirmed 'other' persecution incidents.** Victims included 12 buzzards, four red kites, and one sparrowhawk (see notes under Appendix 2 for details re 'other').
- **17 confirmed trapping incidents.** Victims included two buzzards, two red kites, two sparrowhawks, one goshawk, one barn owl, one little owl, one merlin and one long-eared owl.
- **3 confirmed nest destruction incidents.** This involved the destruction of one hen harrier nest, one tawny owl nest, and one kestrel nest (victim numbers unknown for all nests).
- **Victim total: 118.** Species split: 58 buzzards, 20 red kites, 16 peregrines, six sparrowhawks, three kestrels, three goshawks, one hen harrier, two short-eared owl, one golden eagle, one barn owl, one white-tailed eagle, one merlin, one long-eared owl, one little owl, one hobby, one 'owl' (species unspecified), one 'bird of prey' (species withheld).

Figure 1: The 137* confirmed raptor persecution incidents in 2020, by incident type



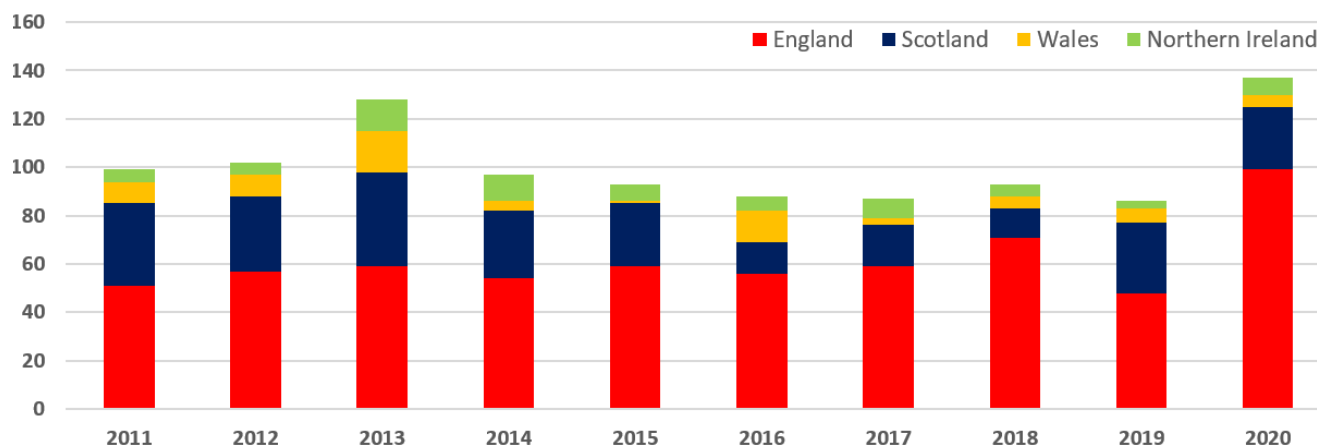
To see the most complete, centralised set of known confirmed raptor persecution incidents in the UK, including 2020 data, see our interactive Raptor Persecution Map Hub: rspb.org.uk/raptormap.

** Note that this figure is likely to increase as data backlogs and delays from various sources due to Covid-19 may result in further incidents or details being added retrospectively.*

UK breakdown of confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in 2020:

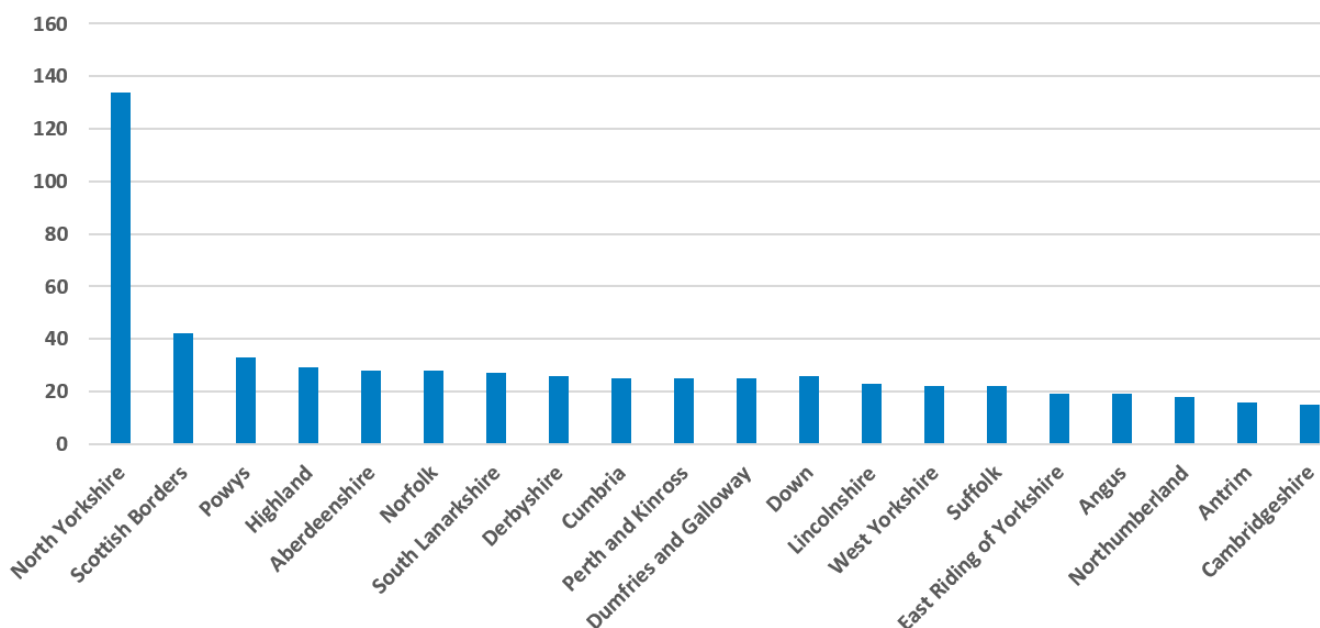
- 99 (72%) of confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents occurred in England
- 26 (19%) occurred in Scotland
- 7 (5%) occurred in Northern Ireland
- 5 (4%) occurred in Wales

Figure 2: Confirmed raptor persecution incidents split into UK countries (2011 to 2020)



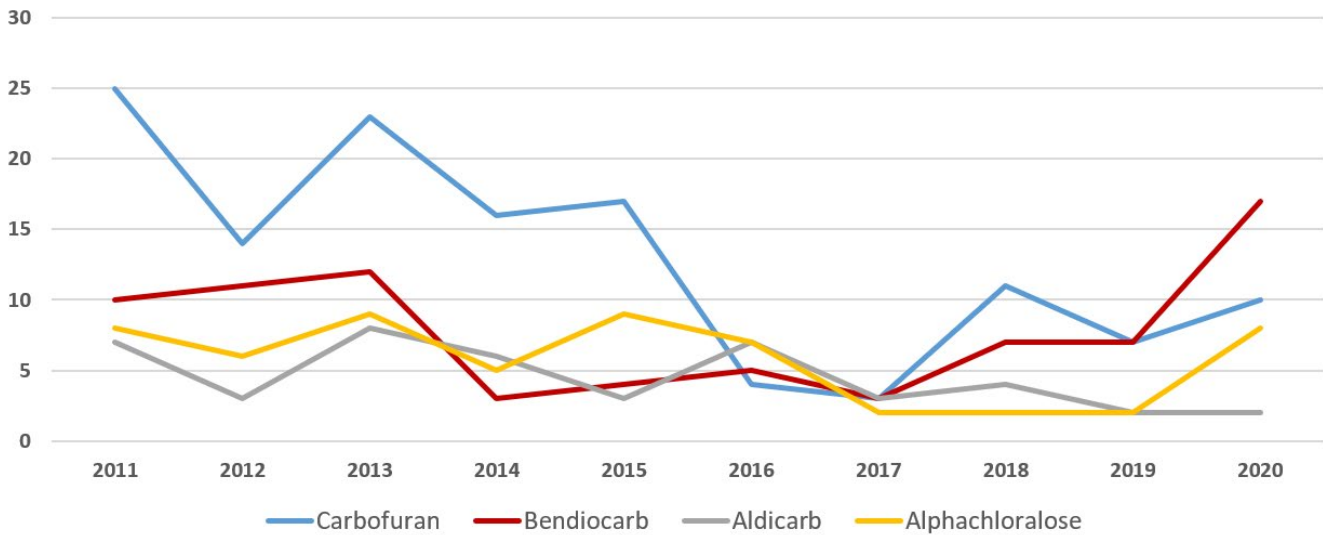
Note: these incidents represent just a fraction of those that occur, as many go undetected. Conclusions that can be drawn from these figures in isolation are limited. See 'Explanatory notes' for bigger-picture scientific studies.

Figure 3: Confirmed raptor persecution incidents in the 20 worst UK counties (2011 to 2020)



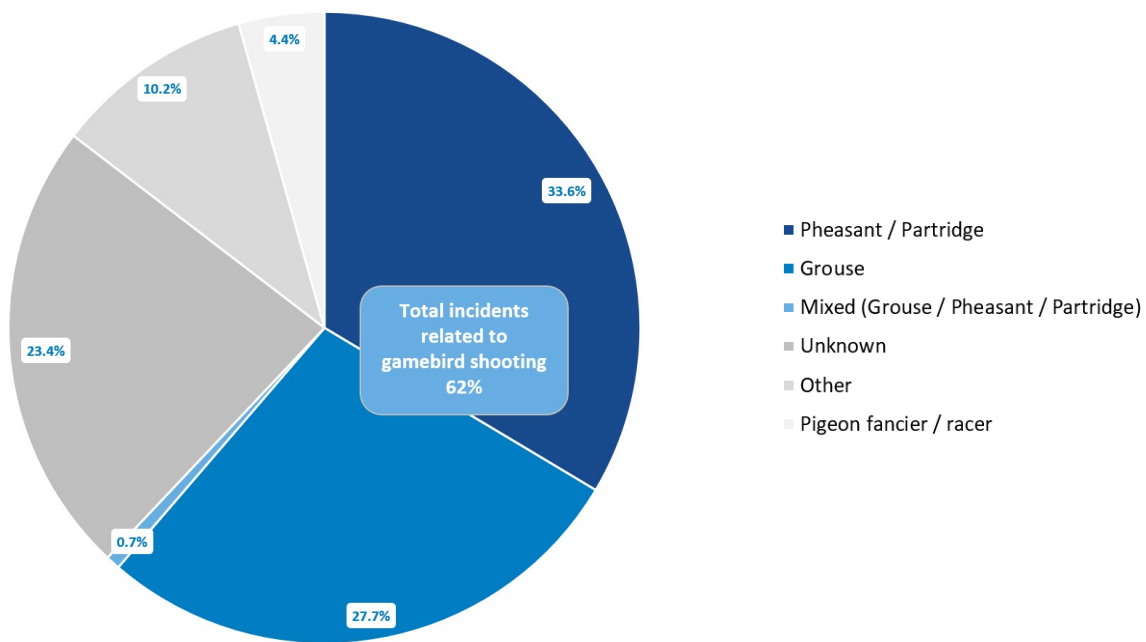
North Yorkshire continues to be the worst UK county for confirmed raptor persecution incidents, a position it has held for the last seven years

Figure 4: The four most commonly abused pesticides in UK raptor persecution incidents (2011 to 2020)



In 2020, bendiocarb became the most commonly detected substance in raptor persecution pesticide abuse incidents for the first time. Note some incidents may involve multiple substances.

Figure 5: The 137 confirmed UK raptor persecution incidents in 2020, split into likely persecution groups

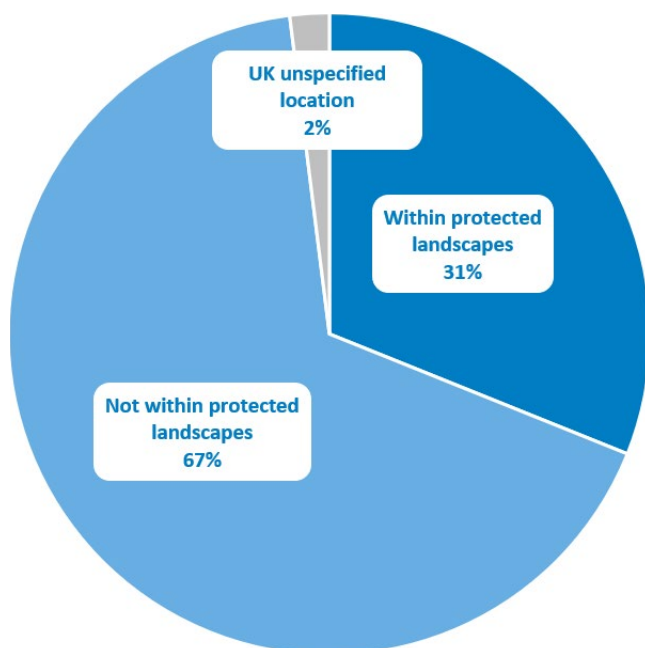


Confirmed incidents have been classified as connected with main persecution groups (with high or reasonable certainty >50%) based on evidence and intelligence. The main groups currently are:

- **Land managed for and/or connected to individuals or groups managing land for game bird shooting** (split into grouse, pheasant/partridge, or mixed pheasant/grouse/partridge).
- **Pigeon fanciers/pigeon racing.**
- **Others** (includes a mixture of incidents beyond other assigned groups, eg: killing bird with a stick; aviculturist targeting birds; shooting birds with an air rifle; farm/livestock-related targeting. Additional separate groups may be assigned out of this 'Others' group in future, as appropriate).
- **Unknown** (there is currently insufficient intelligence/evidence to assign an incident with >50% certainty to a given group).

Raptor persecution in protected landscapes

Figure 6: Confirmed raptor persecution incidents within* UK protected landscapes (2011 to 2020).

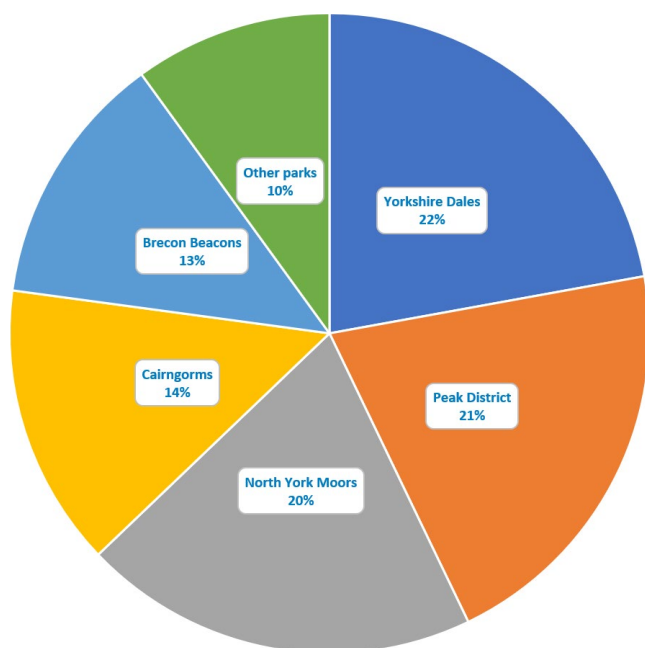


UK 'protected landscapes' include National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Scenic Areas (NSAs). Their combined area covers approximately 22% of the UK land mass (including Northern Ireland).

For the years 2011 to 2020, the locations of all confirmed raptor persecution incidents (1,011) were assessed to determine which occurred within* protected landscapes. Over that ten-year period, c31% (315) of confirmed raptor persecution incidents occurred within* protected landscapes (Fig. 6). Not only was 2020 the worst year on RSPB record for raptor persecution incidents, it was also a bad year for incidents occurring in protected landscapes: in 2020 40% occurred within* either an NP, AONB or NSA (the highest proportion in the last 10 years).

**Indicates incidents occurring within or intersecting with the area boundary.*

Figure 7: Confirmed raptor persecution incidents within* National Parks (2011 to 2020).



Of the 1,011 confirmed UK raptor persecution incidents between 2011 and 2020, 14% (141) occurred within* a designated National Park (NP).

Raptor persecution incidents were detected primarily within* five of the National Parks: Yorkshire Dales NP, Peak District NP and North York Moors NP being the three worst parks, each contributing at least 20% towards the total in NPs. These were followed by the Cairngorms NP (14%) and Brecon Beacons NP (13%). All other parks amalgamated contained the remaining 10% of incidents.

**Indicates incidents occurring within or intersecting with the area boundary.*

Other wild bird crimes (non-raptor persecution)

Note that data backlogs and delays from various sources due to Covid-19 are likely to result in further incidents or details being added retrospectively.

Wild bird poisoning

There were four confirmed wild bird poisoning incidents (other than raptor persecution incidents) where wild birds were victims or vulnerable.

See Appendix 3 for details.

Other offences:

Trade in wild birds and taxidermy

- 25 reports of the illegal taking, possession or sale of wild birds other than birds of prey (predominantly finches)
- One report of illegal taxidermy
- 18 reports of the illegal taking, possession or sale of birds of prey.

Egg collecting and taking eggs and/or chicks from the nests of wild birds

- 15 reported incidents of egg collecting and taking eggs from the nests of wild birds.
- In relation to Schedule 1 species there were two confirmed incidents of taking eggs from peregrine falcon nests; two probable incidents of taking eggs/chicks from peregrine falcon nests; one probable incident of taking goshawk chicks from a nest; one probable incident of taking avocet eggs from a nest and one probable incident of taking little ringed plover eggs from a nest.
- Two reports of eggs of wild birds being illegally sold.

Prosecutions

There were eight* wild bird crime prosecutions (see also Appendix 5). These involved a total of 12 charges, all of which resulted in a guilty outcome. Fines for the year amounted to £1,283 and two individuals were given a prison sentence for their crimes, both were suspended.

**Note that this figure is low, but is anticipated to increase as data backlogs and delays from various sources (including court backlogs) due to Covid-19 result in further incidents or details being added retrospectively.*

In 2020 there were two raptor persecution-related prosecutions. Both involved pigeon fanciers targeting sparrowhawks, and both led to convictions (see Appendix 5).

Figure 8: Number of raptor persecution-related convictions per year (1990 to 2020)

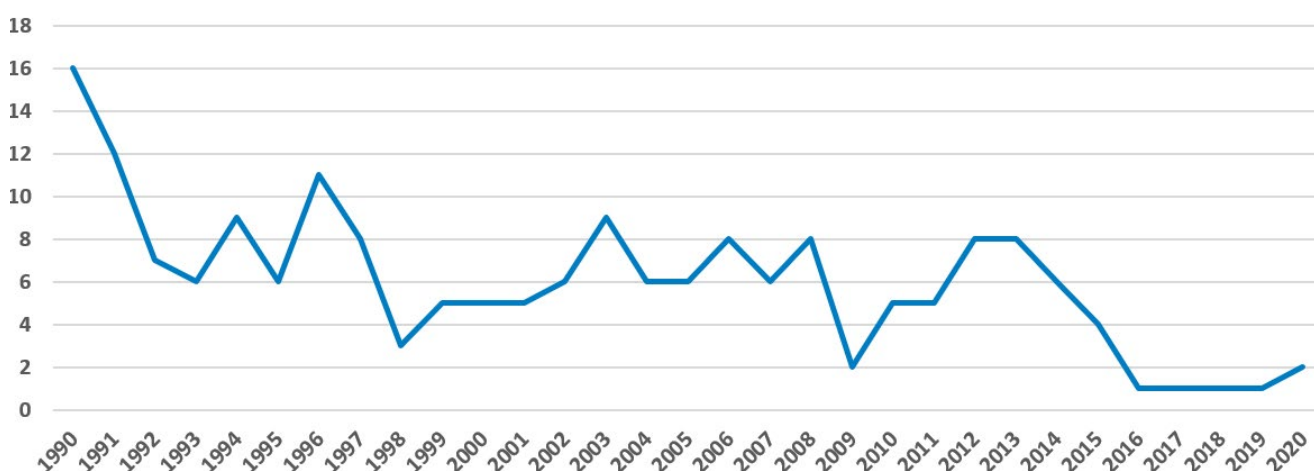


Figure 9: Raptor persecution-related convictions by occupation or interest

Figure 9(a): The occupations or interests of the 186 individuals convicted of raptor persecution-related offences (1990 to 2020)

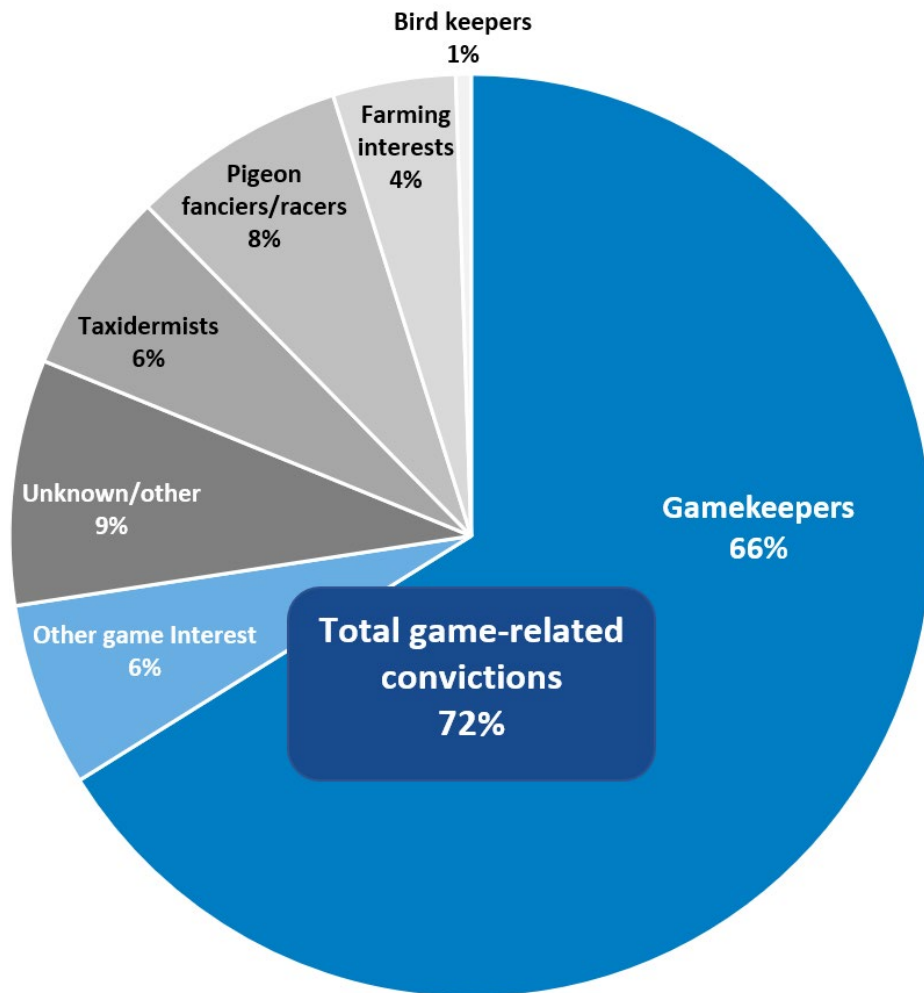
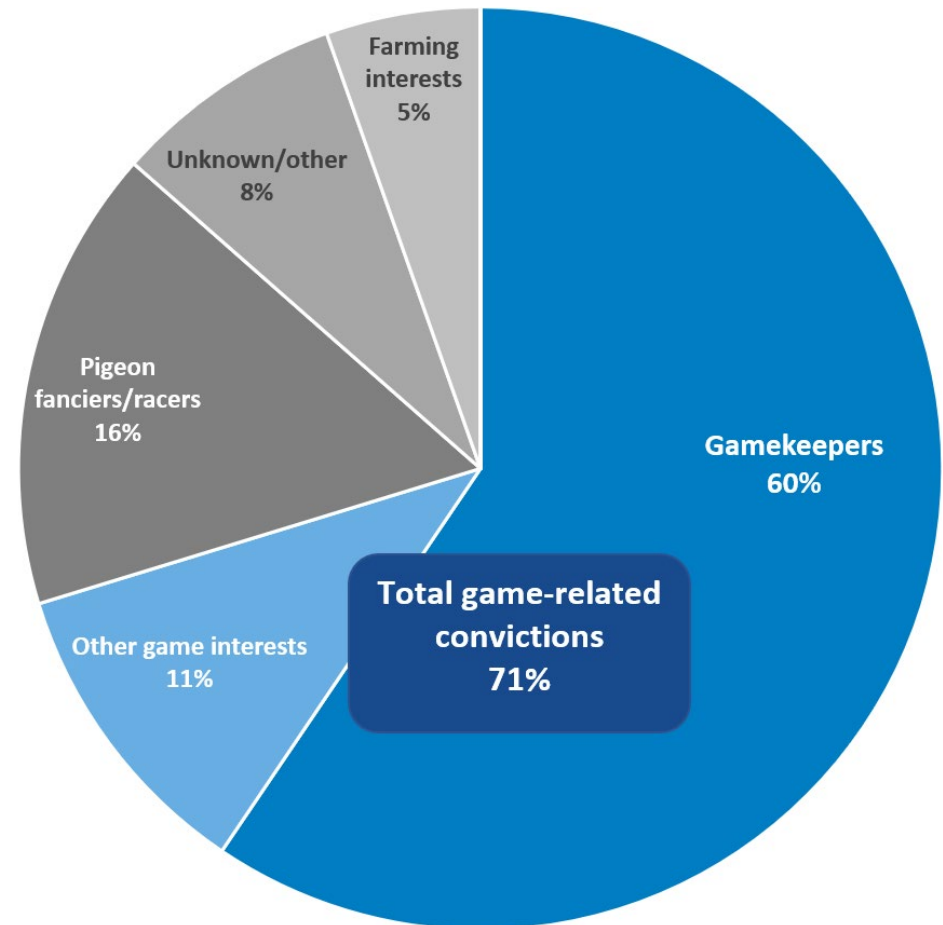


Figure 9(b): The occupations or interests of the 37 individuals convicted of raptor persecution-related offences (2011 to 2020)



Appendix 2

Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents (including poisoning) in 2020

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Shooting or attempted shooting	Jan	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK08
	Jan	Kestrel	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE10
	Jan	Kestrel	1	NA	NA	Gloucestershire	SO72
	Jan	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Worcestershire	SO76
	Jan	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE97
	Jan	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Northumberland	NU20
	Jan	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	Suffolk	TM24
	Feb	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	Devon	SX46
	Feb	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Greater Manchester	SE00
	Feb	Withheld	1	NA	NA	[Scotland]	Unknown
	Feb	Goshawk	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE99
	Mar	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE55
	Mar	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Highland	NH94
	Mar	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Shropshire	SJ61
	Mar	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK34
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE08
	Apr	Red kite	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE24
	Apr	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Powys	SO09
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE69
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE69
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE69
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE69
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Norfolk	TF50
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE08
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE08
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE27
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Merseyside	SJ38

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Shooting or attempted shooting (continued)	May	Short-eared owl	1	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK09
	May	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Greater Manchester	SE00
	May	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE12
	May	Hen harrier	1	NA	NA	South Lanarkshire	NS81
	Jul	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE78
	Jul	Golden eagle	1	NA	NA	Powys	SN85
	Jul	Short-eared owl	1	NA	NA	South Lanarkshire	NS81
	Jul	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Kent	TR16
	Aug	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE13
	Aug	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Gloucestershire	SP11
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Highland	NH92
	Aug	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Renfrewshire	NS46
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Highland	NH92
	Aug	Hobby	1	NA	NA	Essex	TQ89
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Dorset	SU01
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK08
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Dorset	ST91
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Dorset	SU01
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Kent	TQ77
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Armagh	J03
	Sep	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Down	J25
	Oct	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Kent	TQ77
	Oct	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Wiltshire	SU16
	Oct	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	South Yorkshire	SE61
	Nov	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Norfolk	TG12
	Nov	Peregrine falcon	1	NA	NA	Perth and Kinross	NN82
	Dec	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE29
	Dec	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	East Riding of Yorkshire	TA23
	Dec	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE54
	Dec	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Hertfordshire	TL23
	Number of birds of prey		57				

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Illegal pole or spring trapping	Feb	Birds of prey	T*	NA	NA	Dumfries and Galloway	NX86
	Apr	Carrion crow	1	NA	NA	Midlothian	NT36
	May	Little owl	1	NA	NA	Norfolk	TF72
	Aug	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Berkshire	SU56
	Sep	Birds of prey	T*	NA	NA	Derbyshire	SK34
	Number of birds of prey		2				
Illegal trapping (other than pole or spring trapping)	Apr	Goshawk	T*	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE89
	May	Birds of prey	T*	NA	NA	Norfolk	TL78
	May	Goshawk	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE89
	Jul	Merlin	1	NA	NA	Highland	NH92
	Aug	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	Aberdeenshire	NJ73
	Sep	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Scottish Borders	NT44
	Sep	Barn owl	1	NA	NA	Scottish Borders	NT44
	Oct	Long-eared owl	1	NA	NA	Perth and Kinross	NN82
	Oct	Owl spp.	1	NA	NA	Perth and Kinross	NO14
	Oct	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Perth and Kinross	NN82
	Nov	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	Leicestershire	SK50
	Dec	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Nottinghamshire	SK74
	Number of birds of prey		10				
	Nest destruction	Apr	Hen harrier (nest)	T*	NA	NA	Scottish Borders
May		Kestrel (nest)	T*	NA	NA	Hampshire	SU60
May		Tawny owl (nest)	T*	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE28
Number of birds of prey		3 nests					

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Persecution 'other'	Feb	Birds of prey	T*	(Possession) Withheld	NA	Dumfries and Galloway	NX86
	Apr	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE69
	Apr	Hen harrier	T*	NA	NA	Cumbria	SD78
	May	Peregrine falcon	T*	NA	NA	Armagh	H74
	Jun	Golden eagle	T*	NA	NA	Argyll And Bute	NM80
	Jul	Birds of prey	T*	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE17
	Jul	Birds of prey	T*	(Possession) Carbofuran	NA	South Lanarkshire	NS81
	Aug	Sparrowhawk	1	NA	NA	West Yorkshire	SE12
	Sep	Birds of prey	T*	NA	NA	North Yorkshire	SE08
	Aug	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Aug	Buzzard	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Sep	Birds of prey	T*	(Possession) Bendiocarb	NA	Wiltshire	Withheld
	Sep	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Sep	Red kite	1	NA	NA	Withheld [England]	Withheld
	Number of birds of prey		17				

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Poisoning	Jan	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Norfolk	TF81
	Jan	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Unknown	Antrim	C90
	Jan	Red kite	1	Alphachloralose	Unknown	Bedfordshire	SP92
	Feb	Red kite	1	Carbofuran	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE17
	Feb	Buzzard	1	Diazinon	Unknown	Fife	Unknown
	Feb	Birds of prey	B*	Withheld	Duck	Dumfries and Galloway	NX86
	Feb	Buzzard	1	Withheld	Unknown	Dumfries and Galloway	NX86
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose, bendiocarb, carbofuran, isofenphos	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE16
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Unknown	North Yorkshire	NZ50
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Aldicarb	Unknown	Derbyshire	SK46
		Kestrel	1				
	Mar	Red kite	3	Diazinon	Unknown	Powys	SO18
	Mar	Buzzard	1	Aldicarb	Unknown	Lincolnshire	TF27
	Apr	Dog	1	Bendiocarb, carbofuran, isofenphos, alphachloralose	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE16
	Apr	Peregrine falcon	2	Bendiocarb, alphachloralose, carbofuran	Unknown	North Yorkshire	SE44
	Apr	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Lincolnshire	TF21
	Apr	Birds of prey	B*	Lindane	Lamb	Devon	SE99
	Apr	White-tailed eagle	1	Withheld	Unknown	Aberdeenshire	NJ31
	Apr	Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose	Unknown	Tyrone	H87
	Apr	Raven	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Buckinghamshire	SU78
	May	Peregrine falcon	1	Bendiocarb	Pigeon	Staffordshire	SK06
		Buzzard	1				
	May	Peregrine falcon	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Staffordshire	SK15
	May	Peregrine falcon	1	Bendiocarb, carbofuran	Unknown	Derbyshire	SK19
	May	Birds of prey	B*	Nitroxynil	Lamb	Tyrone	H58
	Jun	Birds of prey	B*	Bendiocarb	Rabbit	North Yorkshire	NZ61

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10-km grid ref
Poisoning (continued)	Jun	Peregrine falcon	1	Bendiocarb	Pigeon	Staffordshire	SK04
	Jul	Peregrine falcon	1	Bendiocarb, carbofuran	Unknown	South Yorkshire	SE30
	Jul	Goshawk	1	Isofenphos	Unknown	Powys	SO08
	Jul	Carrion crow	1	Bendiocarb, carbofuran	Unknown	Hampshire	SU42
	Sep	Raven	1	Withheld	Unknown	Powys	SJ20
	Sep	Buzzard	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Suffolk	TL68
	Sep	Buzzard	2	Carbofuran	Unknown	County Durham	NZ01
	Oct	Buzzard	1	Carbofuran, isofenphos	Unknown	Devon	SS61
	Oct	Red kite	1	Withheld	Unknown	Highland	NH83
	Nov	Red kite	1	Bendiocarb	Unknown	Dorset	SU01
	Nov	Birds of prey	B*	Bendiocarb, alphachloralose	Pigeon	Armagh	H74
	Number of birds of prey		32				

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

*'T' indicates known target species, victims unknown. 'B' indicates that 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, offence type or category.

'Withheld' indicates that details are pending permission from the enforcement partner to be released. Once available, they will be added retrospectively to rspb.org.uk/raptormap.

For a definition of 'confirmed' see the explanatory notes at the end of these appendices.

Persecution 'other' captures confirmed persecution incidents that do not fall clearly into 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;
- incidents which clearly involve illegally killed birds but where the precise mechanism of death is not determinable to a category (eg multiple dead birds dumped together where decomposition makes it difficult to determine if birds were shot, trapped or poisoned, but where intelligence/evidence substantiates persecution occurred with >95% certainty. See 'Explanatory notes' for details).

Explore our UK map of confirmed raptor persecution incidents at rspb.org.uk/raptormap.

Appendix 3

Confirmed poison (pesticide) abuse incidents (excluding raptor persecution) in 2020

Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	Country	10km grid ref
Mar	Dog	1	Metaldehyde	Meatballs	Monmouthshire	Unknown
Apr	Corvidae	T*	Alphachloralose	Egg	Suffolk	Unknown
Sep	Cat	2	Difenacoum	Prawn	East Yorkshire	Unknown
Dec	Cat	2	Carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, diazinon	Unknown	Down	Unknown

The above shows confirmed poison abuse incidents involving species other than raptors where wild birds were involved or believed at risk. 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.

*'T' indicates known target species, victims unknown.

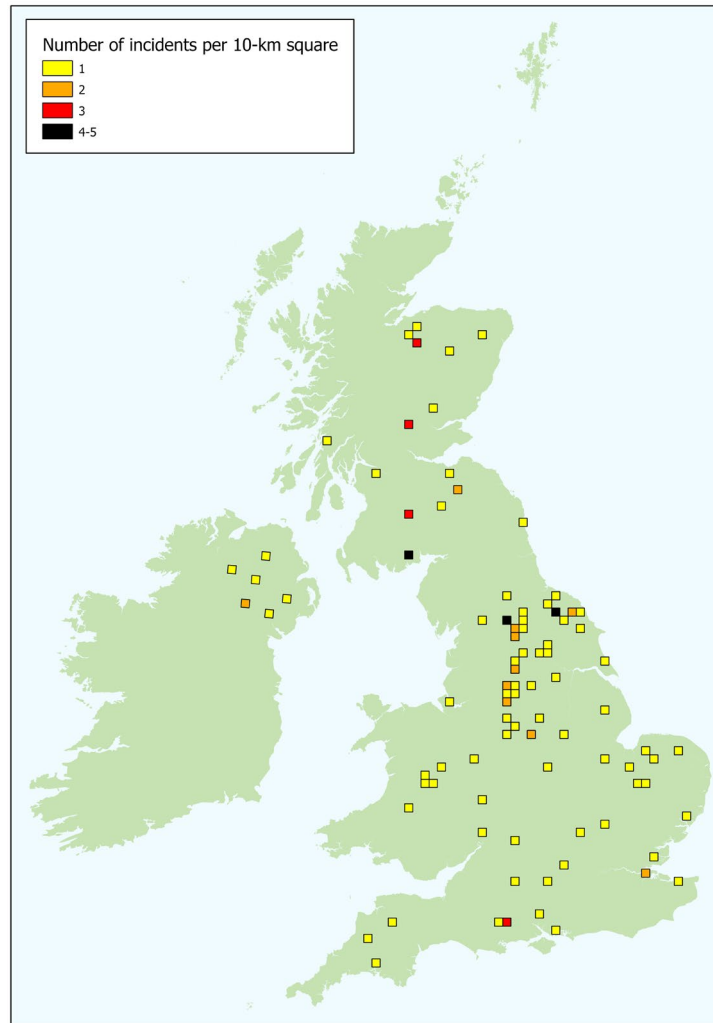
The data above were extracted from the RSPB database on 14 September 2021 and were accurate at time of extraction but are constantly being updated and may be subject to change. Additional incidents or details may be added retrospectively pending release from statutory agencies or other sources.

Data delays from various sources due to Covid-19 are likely to result in further incidents or details being added retrospectively to the UK map of confirmed raptor persecution incidents at rspb.org.uk/raptormap.

Appendix 4

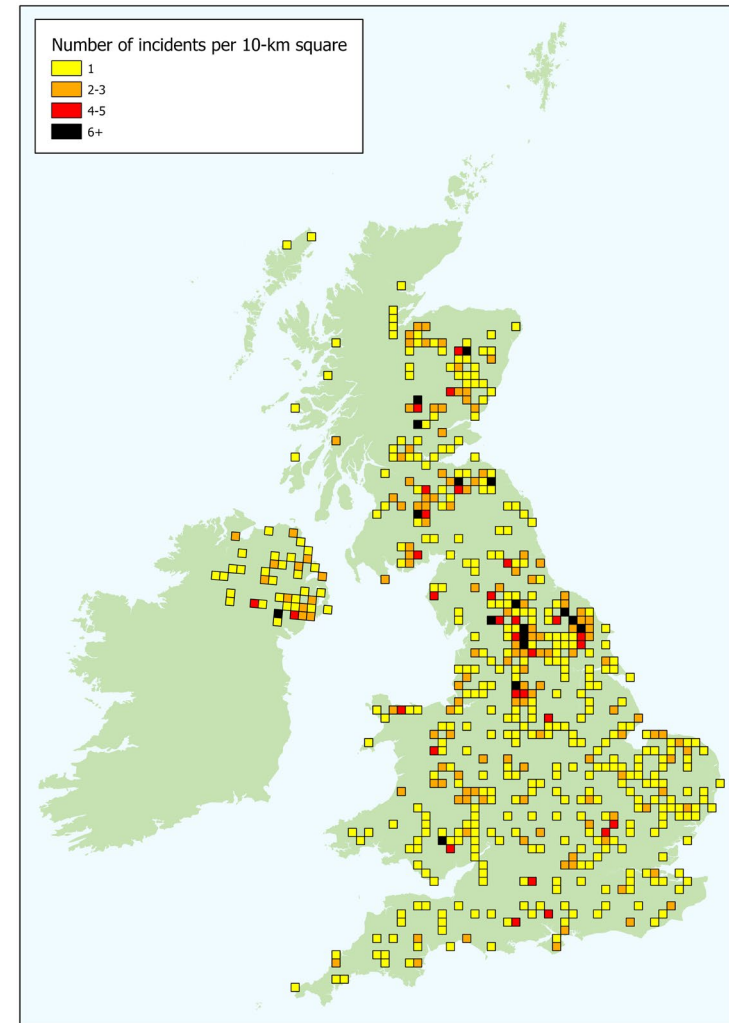
Confirmed raptor persecution incidents in 2020 - UK map

This map shows 119 of the 137 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in 2020, each mapped to a 10-km grid square (18 are unmappable or withheld pending permission for release).



Confirmed raptor persecution incidents from 2011 to 2020 - UK map

This map shows 971 of the 1,011 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents from 2011 to 2020, each mapped to a 10-km grid square (40 are unmappable or withheld pending permission for release).



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

Appendix 5 Wild bird crime prosecutions in 2020

Date	Prosecutor	Court	Surname	Act	Section/ Reg	No. of charges	Plea	Outcome	Penalty type 1	Penalty 1 details	Penalty type 2	Penalty 2 details	Summary
18/02/2020	Fiscal	Stirling Sheriff	Cowan	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	G	G	Fine	£450			Accused (pigeon fancier) pleaded guilty to intentionally killing a wild bird (sparrowhawk) after shooting it with an air rifle. Fined £450.
25/02/2020	CPS	Portsmouth Magistrates	Cruz	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	G	G	Fine	£653			Defendant (pigeon fancier) pleaded guilty to intentionally killing a wild bird (sparrowhawk) after targeting it with a catapult. Fined £653 and ordered to pay £85 costs and a £63 victim surcharge.
04/03/2020	RSPCA	Sheffield Magistrates	Evans	Animal Welfare Act 2006	9&32(2)	1	G	G	CU	2 Months total 9pm-7am			Defendant pleaded guilty to illegally possessing 10 wild birds (unringed goldfinches), failing to ensure their needs were met, and possessing a wild bird trap. Sentenced to a two-month community order with a curfew between 9pm and 7am and disqualified from keeping birds for three years. Ordered to pay £100 costs and a £192 victim surcharge
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	1	G	G	CU				
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	G	G	CU				
10/09/2020	CPS	Lincoln Magistrates	Winfield	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	7(1)	2	G	G	Jail	24 weeks suspended for two years			Defendant (falconer) pleaded guilty to two charges of failing to register two Schedule 4 birds (goshawks). Sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment suspended for two years. Banned from keeping Schedule 4 birds for 5 years.
17/09/2020	RSPCA	Manchester Magistrates	Kerr	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1) and 32(1)	2	G	G	CU	Four months total 7pm to 7am			Defendant (wildlife hospital manager) pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to birds, and another charge of failing to ensure other birds received adequate care. 145 birds were deemed to be in a 'suffering state' and had to be euthanised. Species included pigeons, corvids, blackbirds, an eagle owl, swans and geese. Sentenced to a four-month community order with a curfew between 7pm and 7am. Ordered to pay £1,000 costs and a £90 victim surcharge. Banned from keeping animals for life.
				Animal Welfare Act 2006	9 and 32(2)	1	G	G	CU				
03/11/2020	CPS	Blackpool Magistrates	Lancaster	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	U	G	CBO	Total two years with 45 rehab days	CU	Total four months	Defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of killing a wild bird, and another of causing unnecessary suffering (both relate to a gull, species unspecified) after kicking the bird and spraying it with a pressure washer. Sentenced to a two-year community order with 45 rehabilitation days, and placed on a four-month curfew. Ordered to pay £290 costs.
				Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1) and 32(1)	1	G	G					
26/11/2020	CPS	Llandudno Magistrates	Nicholson	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	U	G	Fine	£180			Defendant was found guilty of intentionally killing a wild bird (gull, species unspecified) after hitting it with a walking stick. Fined £180 and ordered to pay £652 costs.
26/11/2020	CPS	Exeter Magistrates	Tims	Animal Welfare Act 2006	4(1) and 32(1)	1	G	G	Jail	Eight weeks suspended for 12 months			Defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of causing unnecessary suffering after using a hockey stick to kill a wild bird [gull, species unspecified]. Sentenced to eight weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months. Ordered to attend six rehabilitation days and pay £428 costs.

Key to Appendix 5

CD	Conditional Discharge	CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order	CU	Curfew Order
D	Discontinued	G	Guilty	NCA	No case to answer
NG	Not guilty	NP	Not proven	NSP	No separate penalty
U	Unknown	YRO	Youth Referral Order	Shading	Denotes raptor persecution case

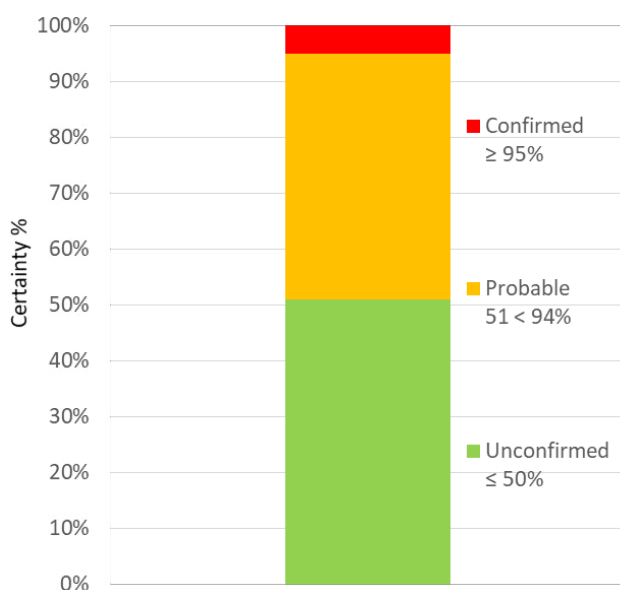
Note that the number of prosecutions listed above for 2020 is likely to be lower than the true figure, particularly for categories involving species that are not of conservation concern. Also, note that prosecution delays and data backlogs from various sources due to Covid-19 are likely to result in further prosecution data being received by us retrospectively. 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.

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 raptor 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 the 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 at 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, 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.

Toxicology results from the government's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) form the primary source of wildlife poisoning data included in *Birdcrime* reports ([see here](#)). 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.

Explanatory notes (continued)



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

- Crimes against raptors in Wales 1990–2019 Published in *Birds in Wales* 18:1 (2021) ([see here](#)).
- The article in *Nature Communications* published March 2019 on patterns of satellite tagged hen harrier disappearances ([see here](#)).
- The NatureScot report 1209 reviews over two million hen harrier nest camera images and indicates success is highest on estates with no game shooting interests ([see here](#)).
- The rigorous Conservation Framework reports by:
 - Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on golden eagles ([see here](#)).
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on hen harriers ([see here](#)).
- A range of peer-reviewed scientific publications that demonstrate the impacts of persecution on species including red kites ([see here](#)) and peregrines ([see here](#)).
- The SNH review published in May 2017 which showed that almost a third of golden eagles fitted with satellite tags disappeared in suspicious circumstances ([see here](#)).
- The *British Birds* paper showing the link between raptor persecution and land managed for driven grouse shooting in the Peak District National Park ([see here](#)).

For additional literature, material and a variety of scientific publications relating to raptor persecution, visit [Operation Owl](#).

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- | | |
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| ● Chemicals Regulations Directorate (CRD) | ● Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) |
| ● Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) Science Ltd | ● Veterinary Services |
| ● Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) | ● Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate (SGRPID) |
| ● Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) | ● Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH/NatureScot) |
| ● The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) | ● UK veterinary practices |
| ● Natural England (NE) | ● The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI NI) |
| ● Raptor Study Group workers | ● Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre |
| | ● Welsh Government |