
2022



Birdcrime appendices

To accompany the Birdcrime report 2022

Birdcrime appendices

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Appendix 1

Data summary 2022

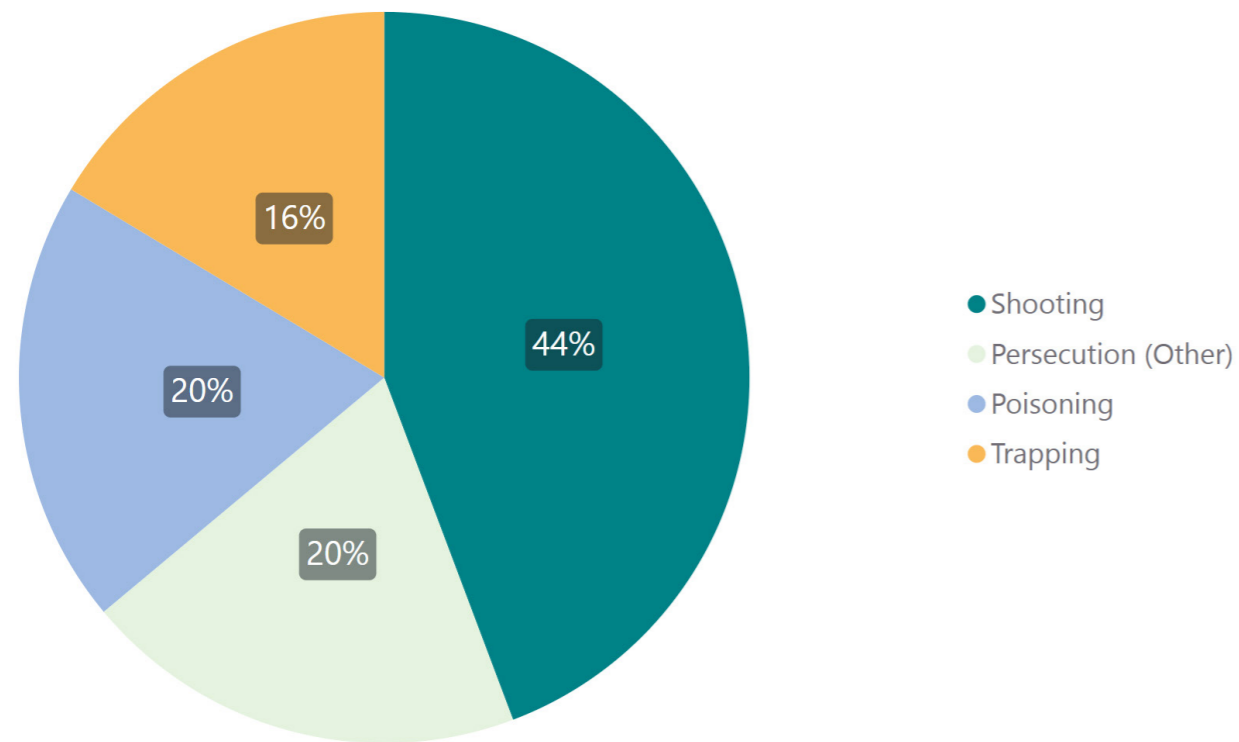
Raptor persecution (see also Appendices 2 and 4)

In 2022, the RSPB Investigations Team recorded 61 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents. Each is mapped to an Ordnance Survey 10km grid square (see Appendix 4) and can be broken down further into the following incident types:

- 27 confirmed shooting or attempted shooting incidents. Victims included seven Common Buzzards, seven Goshawks, seven Red Kites, two Peregrines, two Sparrowhawks, one Hen Harrier and one Short-eared Owl.
- 12 confirmed poisoning (pesticide abuse) incidents. Victims included seven Common Buzzards, four Peregrines and three Red Kites.
- 12 confirmed 'other' persecution incidents. Victims included five Hen Harriers.
- 10 confirmed trapping incidents. Victims included two Common Buzzards, one Goshawk, one Tawny Owl and one Barn Owl.
- Victim total: 51. Species split: 16 Common Buzzards, 10 Red Kites, eight Goshawks, six Peregrines, six Hen Harriers, two Sparrowhawks, one Short-eared Owl, one Barn Owl and one Tawny Owl

Disclaimer: The data in these appendices were extracted from RSPB databases in October 2023 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. The RSPB suspect that the true number of persecution incidents in 2022 are likely to be significantly higher than the data in this report suggests due to the impact of restrictive procedural methods and associated limiting factors connected to the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the UK.

Figure 1: The 61 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in 2022 by % incident type

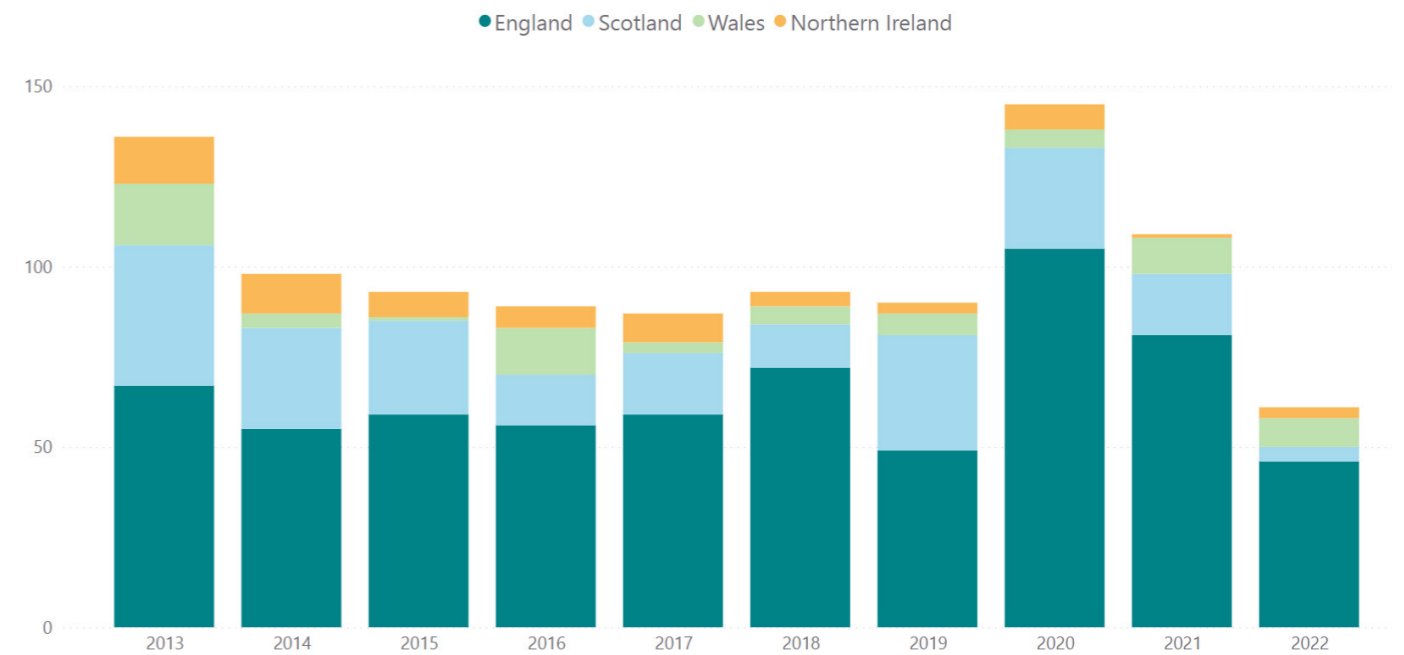


To see the most complete, centralised set of known confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in the UK, including 2022 data, see our interactive Raptor Persecution Map Hub: rspb.org.uk/raptormap.

UK breakdown of 2022 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents:

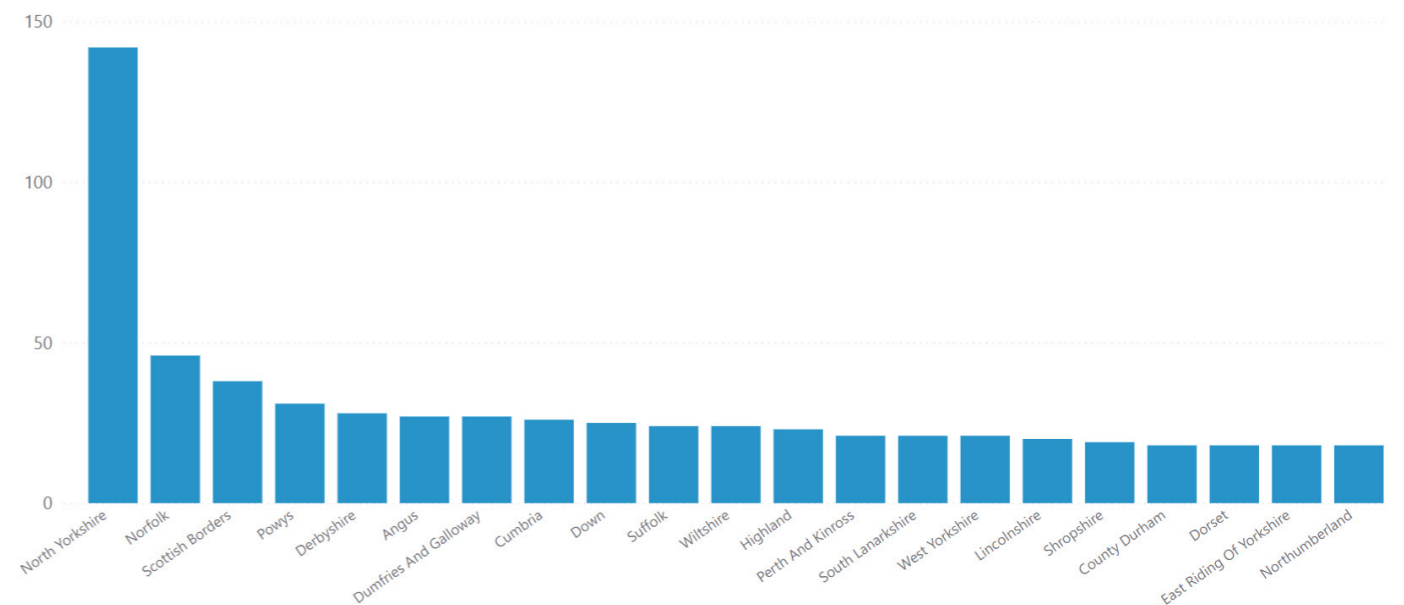
- 46 (75%) of confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents occurred in England
- 8 (13%) occurred in Wales
- 4 (7%) occurred in Scotland
- 3 (5%) occurred in Northern Ireland

Figure 2: Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2013-2022 split into UK countries



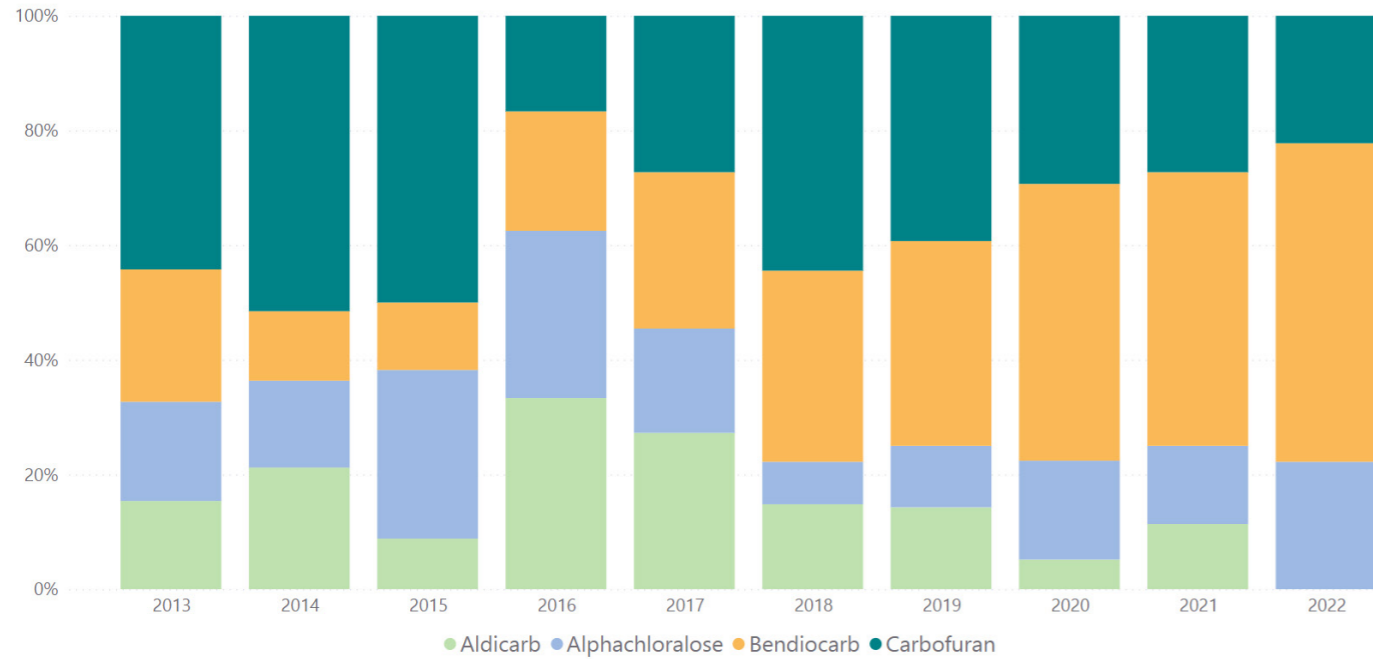
Note: These incidents represent a fraction of those that occur as many go undetected. Conclusions that can be drawn from these figures in isolation are limited. See ‘Explanatory notes’ for bigger picture scientific studies.

Figure 3: Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2013-2022: worst 21 UK counties over 10 years



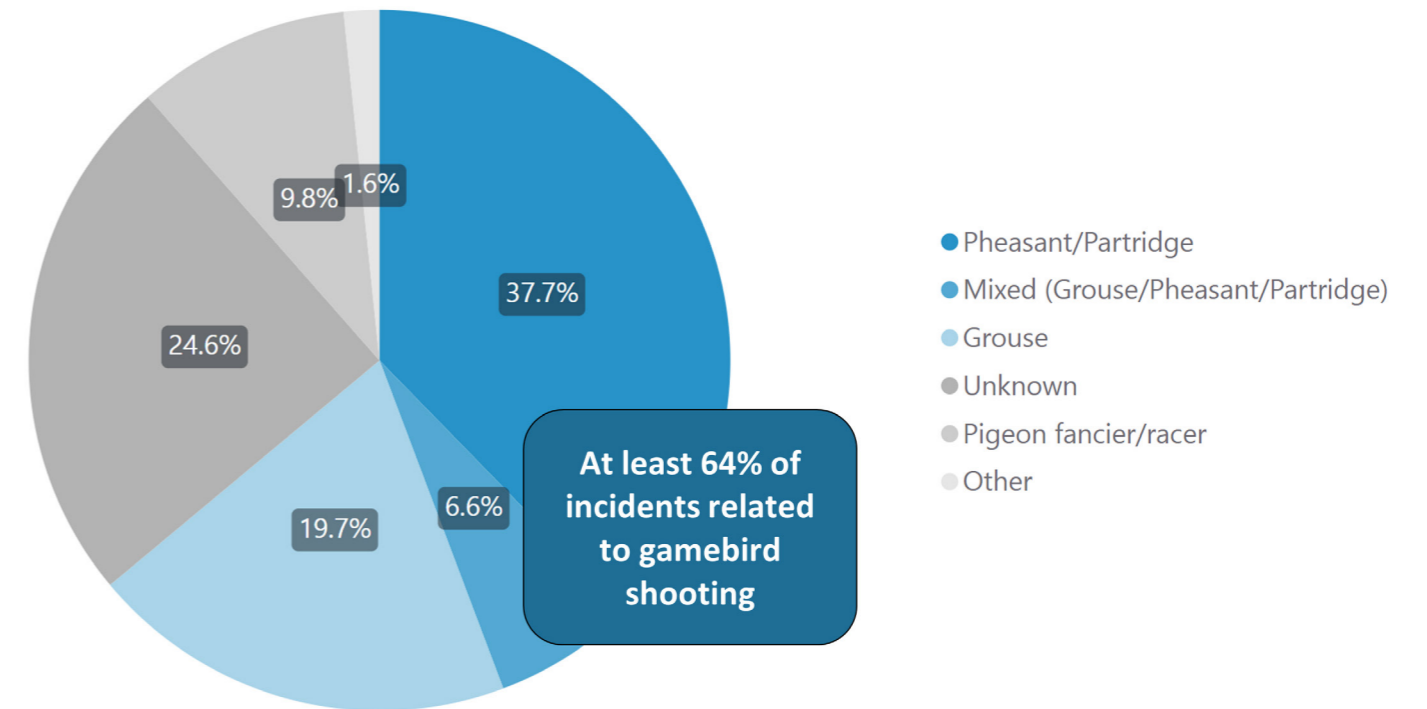
Note: 21 counties were included in the above chart as five counties all had 18 incidents in the period shown.

Figure 4: The four most commonly abused pesticides in UK bird of prey persecution incidents 2013-2022 by proportion



Bendiocarb continues to be the most commonly detected substance in bird of prey persecution pesticide abuse incidents.

Figure 5: The 61 confirmed UK bird of prey persecution incidents 2022 split into likely persecution groups



Confirmed incidents have been classified as connected with main persecution groups (with high or medium confidence) 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
- Other (includes a mixture of variable incidents beyond other assigned groups, e.g. aviculturist targeting birds; youths shooting birds with air rifle; farm/livestock related targeting. Additional separate groups may be assigned out of this 'others' group in the future, as appropriate.
- Unknown (there is currently insufficient intelligence/evidence to assign an incident to a given group with anything more than low confidence).

Prosecutions

In 2022 there were two individuals prosecuted for bird of prey persecution-related offences: both were gamekeepers, and both were convicted.

Including the above, there were 15 wild bird crime prosecutions in 2022 (see also Appendix 5). These involved a total of 46 charges, 38 of which resulted in a guilty outcome. Of the remaining charges four were discontinued, three had a not guilty outcome and one where it was found that there was no case to answer. Fines for the year amounted to £5,217 and two individuals were given a prison sentence for their crimes: one was for 16 weeks, the other a suspended sentence.

Figure 6: Bird of prey persecution-related convictions per year 1990-2022

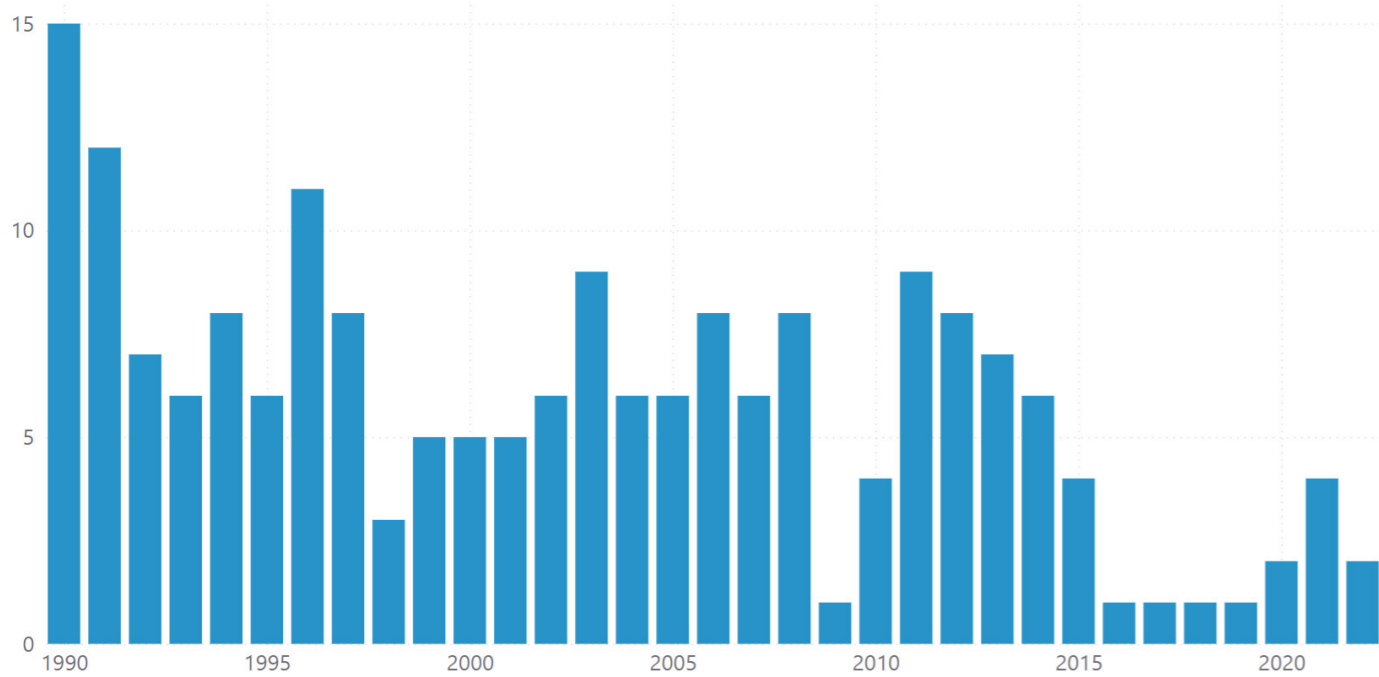


Figure 7: Bird of prey persecution-related convictions

Figure 7(a): The occupations or interests of the 191 individuals convicted of bird of prey persecution-related offences 1990-2022

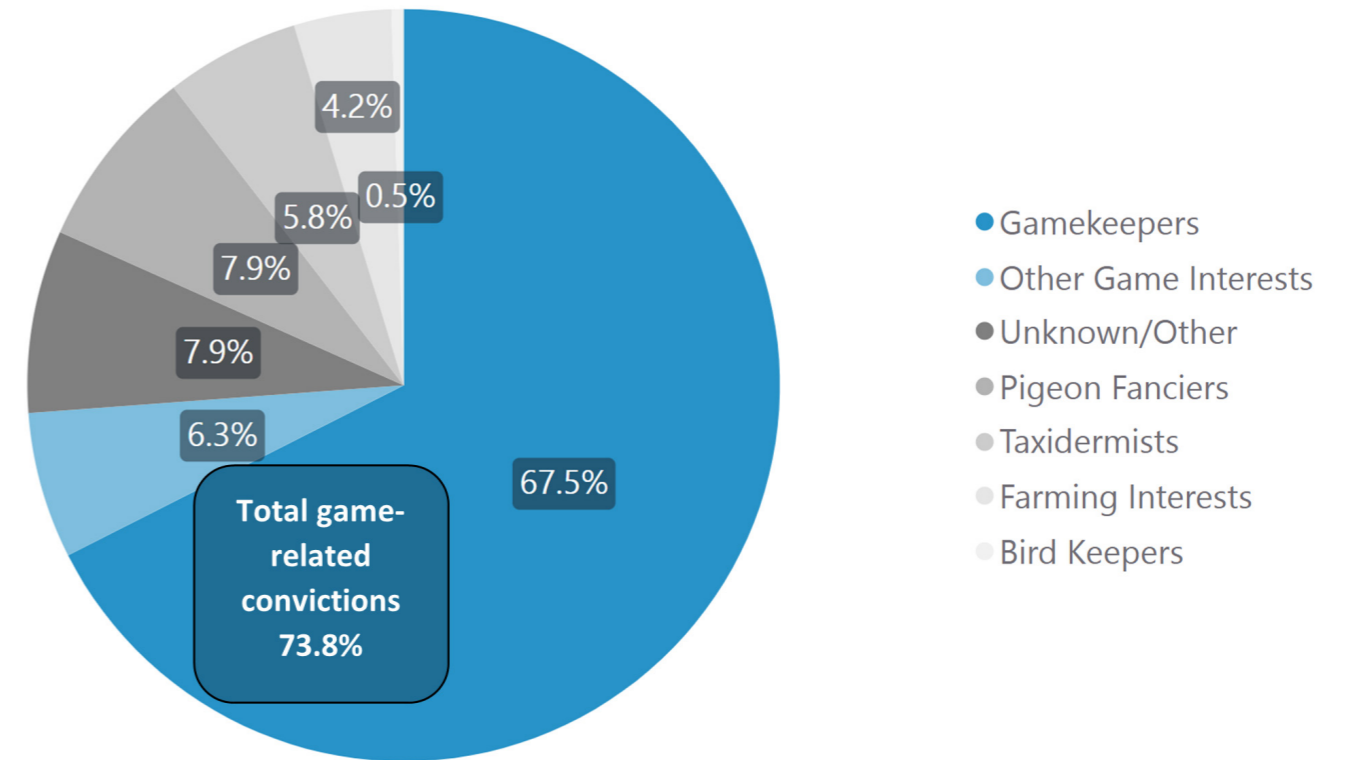
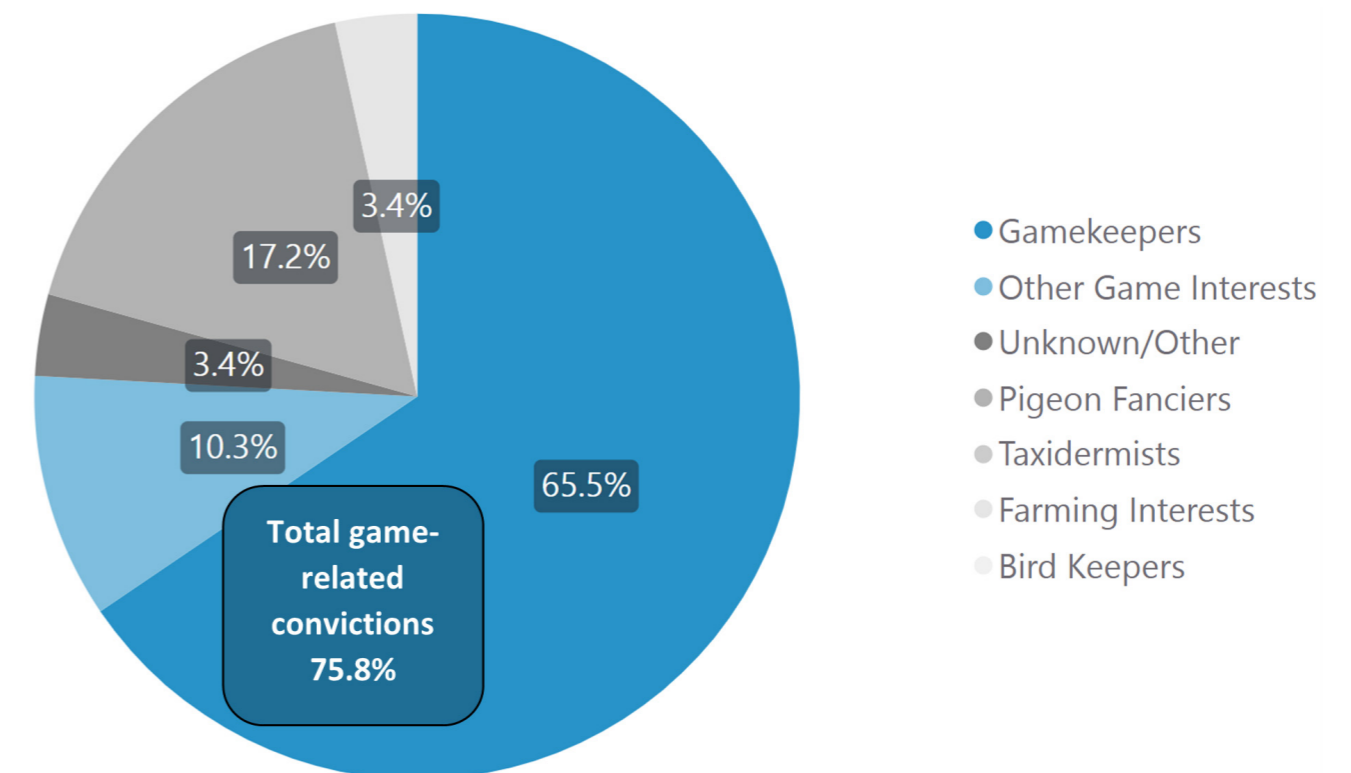


Figure 7(b): The occupations or interests of the 29 individuals convicted of bird of prey persecution-related offences 2013-2022



Appendix 2

Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2022

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
Shooting or attempted shooting	January	Peregrine Falcon	1			Kent	TQ64
	January	Common Buzzard	1			North Yorkshire	SE85
	February	Red Kite	1			Aberdeenshire	NJ70
	February	Common Buzzard	1			North Yorkshire	SE86
	March	Common Buzzard	1			Derbyshire	SK22
	March	Goshawk	1			Gloucestershire	SO60
	April	Red Kite	1			Wiltshire	SU26
	April	Common Buzzard	1			Cleveland	NZ52
	April	Sparrowhawk	1			South Yorkshire	SE61
	April	Sparrowhawk	1			Renfrewshire	NS35
	June	Short-eared Owl	1			South Yorkshire	SK29
	June	Peregrine Falcon	1			Herefordshire	SO36
	July	Goshawk	1			Powys	SJ01
	July	Red Kite	1			Powys	SN98
	August	Red Kite	1			North Yorkshire	SD96
	August	Common Buzzard	1			Cambridgeshire	TL17
	September	Goshawk	1			Suffolk	TL87
	September	Goshawk	1			Suffolk	TL87
	September	Goshawk	1			Suffolk	TL87
	September	Goshawk	1			Suffolk	TL87
	September	Goshawk	1			Suffolk	TL87
	September	Red Kite	1			Essex	TQ9
	October	Red Kite	1			County Durham	NY94
	October	Common Buzzard	1			North Yorkshire	SE66
	October	Red Kite	1			Northumberland	NY95
	December	Hen Harrier	1			Cumbria	NY64
	Withheld	Common Buzzard	1			North Yorkshire	SE98
	Number of birds of prey			28			
Illegal trapping	January	Barn Owl	1			Oxfordshire	SP50
	March	Goshawk	T			Denbighshire	Withheld
	March	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T			Merthyr Tydfil	Withheld
	March	Common Buzzard	1			Norfolk	TG04
	April	Goshawk	1			Norfolk	TL89
	April	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T			Norfolk	TF70
	April	Goshawk	T				
	April	Goshawk	T			Norfolk	TL89
	June	Tawny Owl	1			North Yorkshire	SE49
	October	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T			Lincolnshire	TF27
	Withheld	Common Buzzard	1			Norfolk	TL78
	Number of birds of prey			5			

Type	Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref	
Poisoning	January	Common Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose		Lincolnshire	TF27	
	March	Common Buzzard	1	Alphachloralose		South Yorkshire	SE10	
	June	Peregrine Falcon	2	Carbofuran, Withheld		East Ayrshire	NS43	
	July	Peregrine Falcon	1	Carbofuran		Down	Withheld	
	July	Laridae (Gulls & Terns)	1					
	July	Peregrine Falcon	1	Carbofuran		Antrim	Withheld	
	August	Common Buzzard	2	Bendiocarb	Pigeon (Feral) Bait	Bridgend	SS98	
	September	Common Buzzard	2	Bendiocarb		Carmarthenshire	SN61	
	October	Common Buzzard	1	Bendiocarb		Wrexham	SJ23	
	October	Red Kite	1	Bendiocarb, Carbofuran		County Durham	NY94	
	October	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T	Permethrin	Pheasant Bait	Shropshire	SJ50	
	November	Red Kite	1	Alphachloralose		Down	J24	
	Withheld	Red Kite	1	Bendiocarb		North Yorkshire	Withheld	
	Number of birds of prey			13				
	"Other" persecution	February	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T	Bendiocarb (Possession)		Flintshire	SJ26
		March	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T	Bendiocarb, Bromadiolone (Possession)		West Yorkshire	SE33
		April	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T			Perth and Kinross	NN93
April		Hen Harrier	1			North Yorkshire	NY70	
April		Sparrowhawk	T			Norfolk	TL89	
May		Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T			County Durham	NZ04	
June		Hen Harrier	1			North Yorkshire	SD78	
June		Hen Harrier	1			North Yorkshire	SD78	
June		Hen Harrier	1			North Yorkshire	SD78	
June		Hen Harrier	1			North Yorkshire	SD78	
October		Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T	Alphachloralose (Possession)		Lincolnshire	TF27	
October	Birds of Prey (Except Owls)	T	Bendiocarb (Possession)		Shropshire	SJ50		
Number of birds of prey			4					

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

‘**T**’ indicates known target species, 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 enforcement partner to be released. Once available, they are added retrospectively to rspb.org.uk/raptormap

For a definition of ‘**confirmed**’ see the ‘**Explanatory Notes**’ at the end of these Appendices.

‘**Other**’ persecution captures confirmed persecution incidents that do not fall clearly into the other categories of shooting, trapping, nest destruction or poisoning (or that haven’t been assigned to one of these categories pending release from enforcement partners). For example, this could include:

- Killing or attempted killing using means other than those listed in the categories above.
- 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). This includes 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, e.g. 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 pesticide abuse incidents (excluding raptor persecution) 2022

Month	Species	Number	Poison	Bait	County	10km grid ref
February	Mute Swan	1	Pentobarbital		Withheld	Withheld
April	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	Carbofuran		Cumbria	NY74

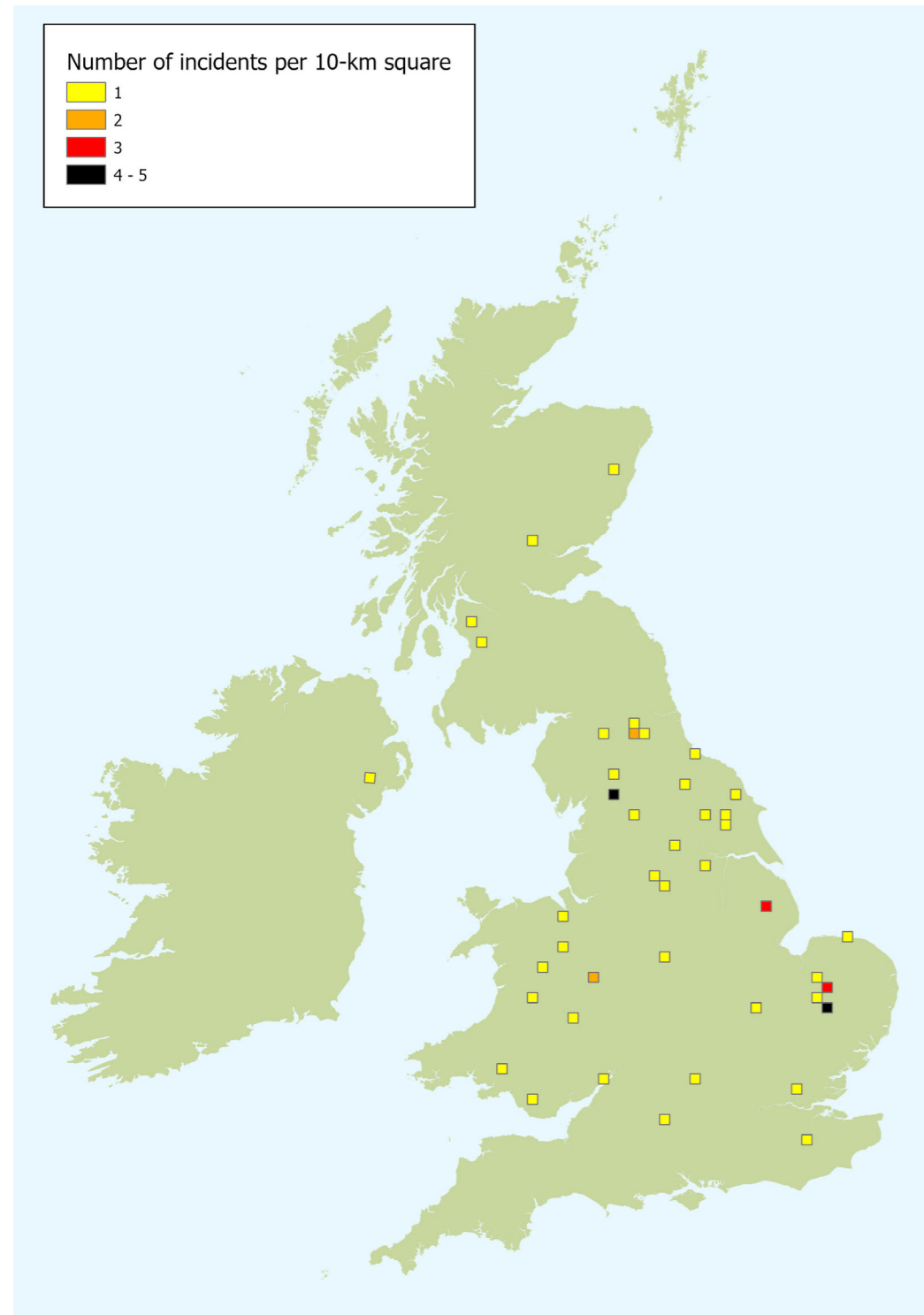
The above shows confirmed pesticide abuse incidents involving species other than birds of prey where wild birds were involved or believed at risk. For bird of prey persecution pesticide abuse incidents see **Appendix 2**.

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

Appendix 4

Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2022

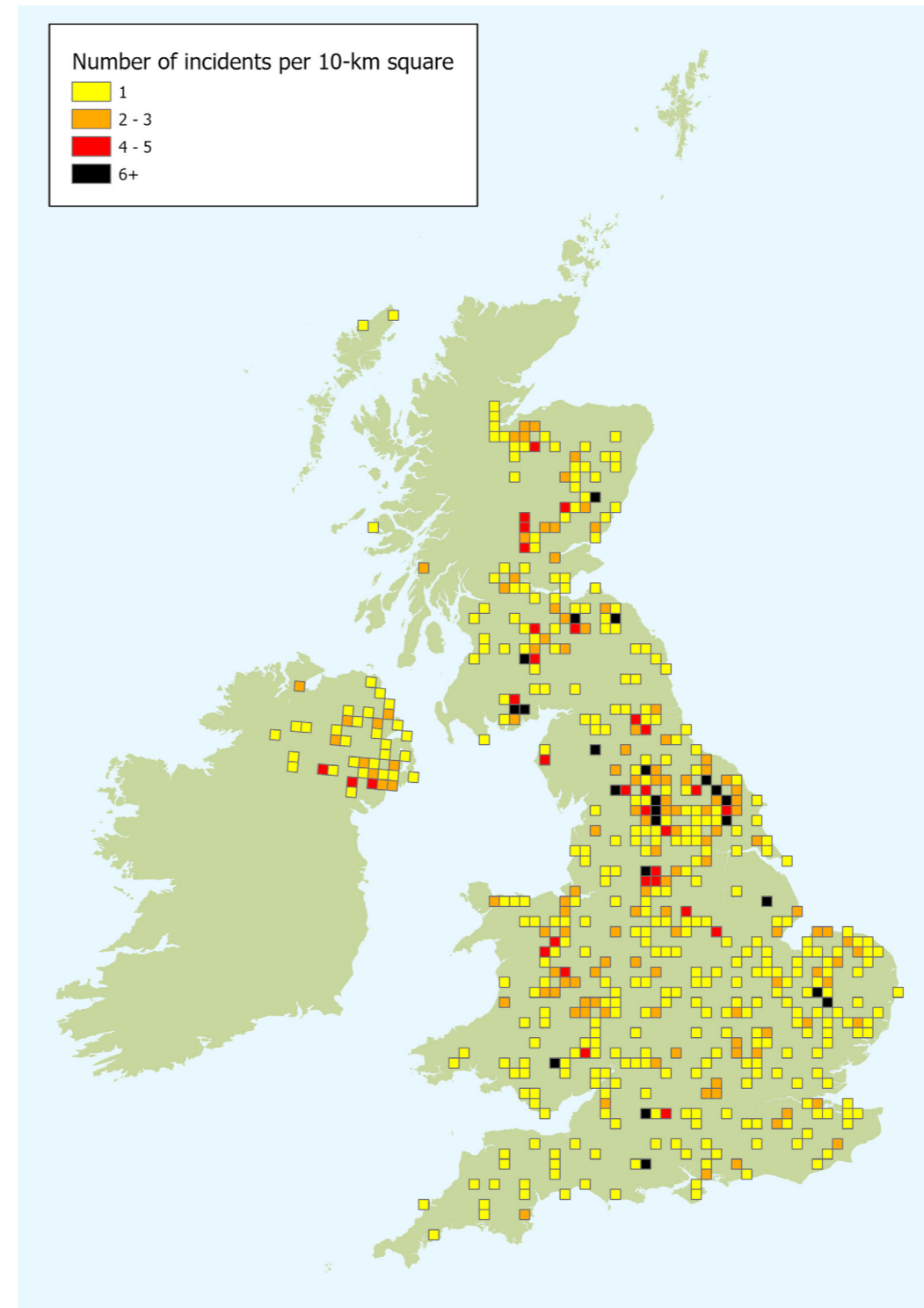
This map shows 56 of the 61 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents in 2022, each mapped to a 10km grid square (five are unmappable or withheld pending permission for release).



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

Confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2013-2022

This map shows 987 of the 1003 confirmed bird of prey persecution incidents 2013-2022, each mapped to a 10km grid square (16 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 2022

Final hearing 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
10/01/2022	Police	Grimsby Magistrates	Bradford	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	U	G	Fine	£1,085			Defendant (occupation unknown) was charged with using a vehicle to pursue wild birds for the purpose of killing them, killing a wild bird (a Canada Goose) and an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988. The defendant was found guilty of all three charges and was fined £1,085 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100. (Details)
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(e)	1	U	G					
11/01/2022	Fiscal	Tain Sheriff	Maclennan	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	2	G	G	Fine	£940			Accused (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to three charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: two charges of intentionally or recklessly injuring a wild bird by striking it with a ball bearing from a slingshot or similar instrument, and a third charge of taking or destroying eggs from a wild bird (all relating to Herring Gulls). The accused was fined £940, and a motion granted for forfeiture of catapults, ball bearings and gull eggs. (Details)
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(c)	1	G	G					
03/02/2022	RSPCA	Weymouth Magistrates	Hughes	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	1	G	G	Banned from keeping birds	10 years	Conditional discharge	2 years	Defendant (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to two offences: one of possessing a live wild bird (a Linnet) and one of being present at an animal fight. The defendant was handed a 10-year disqualification from keeping birds (cannot be appealed for five years) and a two year conditional discharge. They were ordered to pay a £22 victim surcharge and £200 in costs. (Details)
				Animal Welfare Act 2006	8(2)	1	G	G					
23/02/2022	Fiscal	Thurso Sheriff	Davidson	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	G	G	Fine	£500			Accused (a delivery driver) pleaded guilty to intentionally or recklessly injuring a wild bird (a Herring Gull). The accused was fined £500. (Details)
14/03/2022	CPS	Birmingham Magistrates	Jones	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	1	G	G	Jail	Four months suspended	Banned from keeping birds	Life – cannot be appealed for 10 years	Defendant (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to illegally keeping live wild birds (four Goldfinches), and to breaching a disqualification made following a conviction in 2018 banning him from keeping birds for life. The defendant was sentenced to a four month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £470 in costs. The ban on keeping birds was reiterated, and an additional order was imposed meaning that the ban cannot be appealed for 10 years. Co-defendant with below. (Details)
				Animal Welfare Act 2006	34(9)	1	G	G					
14/03/2022	CPS	Birmingham Magistrates	Aspbury	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	1	G	G	CSO	12 month community order with 20 rehabilitation activity days			Defendant (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to illegally keeping live wild birds (four Goldfinches). The defendant was sentenced to a 12-month community order with 20 rehabilitation activity days, and ordered to pay £485 in costs. Co-defendant with above. (Details)
19/04/2022	CPS	Stockport Magistrates	[Withheld]	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991	3	1	NG	NCA					Defendant (occupation unknown) was charged with offence relating to a dog dangerously out of control and attacking a Mute Swan. Court stated that there was no case to answer as no witnesses were available.
29/04/2022	CPS	Swindon Magistrates	Softley	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	1	U	G	Fine	£200			Defendant (occupation unknown) was found guilty of killing a wild bird (a gull). The defendant was fined £200, ordered to pay costs of £45 and a £34 victim surcharge. (Details)
25/05/2022	CPS	Chesterfield Magistrates	[Withheld]	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(c)	1	U	NG					Defendant (occupation unknown) was charged with three offences – taking the eggs of a Schedule 1 bird, disturbance of a nesting Schedule 1 bird and possessing items capable of committing an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Due to inadmissibility of police evidence, the judge found the defendant not guilty on all charges.
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(5)(a)	1	U	NG					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	U	NG					

Key to Appendix 5

CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	NG	Not Guilty
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	NCA	No Case to Answer
U	Unknown	D	Discontinued
G	Guilty	CSO	Community Service Order
		Text	Bird of prey persecution case

Note that the number of prosecutions listed above for 2022 is likely 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.

Appendix 5 (Continued)

Wild bird crime prosecutions 2022

Final hearing 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
01/06/2022	CPS CPS	Swindon Magistrates	Watson	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	3	G	G	CSO	12 months with 180 hours of unpaid work			Defendant (a gamekeeper) pleaded guilty to three charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Possessing a dead wild bird (relating to five Common Buzzards), possessing a dead Schedule 1 wild bird (relating to three Red Kites), and possessing a dead wild bird (relating to a gull), along with three charges relating to the Firearms Act 1968. The defendant was ordered to undertake a 12 month community order with 180 hours of unpaid work. They were also ordered to pay £393 in costs and a £95 victim surcharge. (Details)
				Firearms Act 1968	1(2)	2	G	G					
				Firearms Act 1968	2(2)	1	G	G					
10/08/2022	CPS	Hastings Magistrates	Earwaker	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(2)(a)	1	G	G	CSO	Community Protection Warning and 100 hours of unpaid work	Banned from keeping birds	Life	Defendant (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to the possession of a live wild bird (a Goldfinch). The defendant was handed a Community Protection Warning instructing them not to trespass on any private land without the landowner's written permission, and ordered to undertake 100 hours of unpaid work. They were also banned for life from dealing in, keeping, transporting or arranging transport for any type of bird of wildfowl, and ordered to pay £85 in costs and a £95 victim surcharge. (Details)
03/10/2022	CPS	South Tyneside Magistrates	Johnston	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	2	G	G	Jail	16 weeks			Defendant (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to two counts of killing a wild bird (relating to two Herring Gulls). The defendant was handed a 16 week custodial sentence. (Details)
05/10/2022	CPS	Norwich Magistrates	Stroud	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(a)	7	G	G	Fine	£692	CSO	12 month community order with 200 hours of unpaid work	Defendant (a gamekeeper) pleaded guilty to 12 charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: seven charges of killing a wild bird (one Goshawk (Schedule 1) and six Common Buzzards), three charges of using an article to kill a wild bird (relating to the laying of poisoned baits), one charge of releasing into the wild Schedule 9 Part 1 animals (relating to the release of 3000 pheasants on or adjacent to a Special Protection Area) and one charge of possession of an item capable of being used for an offence (possession of shotguns in relation to the charges of killing wild birds). They also pleaded guilty to one charge under the Poisons Act 1972 (the possession of an unlicensed regulated substance - strychnine) and one charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (contravening a health and safety regulation in relation to the usage of the chemical phostoxin). Two further charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, one under the Animal Health Act 1981 and one under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 were discontinued. The defendant was handed a 12 month community order with 200 hours of unpaid work and a £692 fine. They were also ordered to pay costs of £145, compensation of £288.72 and a £95 victim surcharge. The defendant's firearms, mobile phone and chemicals were confiscated to be destroyed. (Details)
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	5(1)(b)	3	G	G					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	14(1)(b) & 21(4)	1	G	G					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	G	G					
				Poisons Act 1972	3(1) & 8(1)	1	G	G					
				Health and Safety at Work Act 1974		1	G	G					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	14(1)(b) & 21(4)	1	U	D					
				Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	18(2)	1	U	D					
				Animal Health Act 1981	21	1	U	D					
Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	16(12)(a)	1	U	D									
11/11/2022	Fiscal	Tain Sheriff	Curtis	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(c)	1	G	G	Fine	£1,200			Accused (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to destroying the eggs of a wild bird (over 40 eggs). The accused was handed a fine of £1200. Co-accused with below. (Details)
11/11/2022	Fiscal	Tain Sheriff	Morrison	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1(1)(c)	1	G	G	Fine	£600			Accused (occupation unknown) pleaded guilty to destroying the eggs of a wild bird (over 40 eggs). The accused was handed a fine of £600. Co-accused with above. (Details)

Key to Appendix 5

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		Text	Bird of prey persecution case

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Appendix 6

Hen Harrier confirmed persecution incidents and suspicious disappearances (January 2022 – October 2023)

Name	RSPB or Natural England (NE) fitted sat tag	Tagging date	Tagging location	Sex	Date of last transmission	Location
Ethel	NE	30/06/2021	Northumberland	F	Jan 22	Northumberland
Anu	RSPB	15/06/2021	Lancashire	F	Feb 22	South Yorkshire
Pegasus	RSPB	23/06/2021	Lancashire	M	April 22	North Yorkshire
Free	NE	19/06/2020	Cumbria	M	April 22	Cumbria
Unnamed male	Untagged			M	May 22	South Yorkshire
Unnamed male	Untagged			M	May 22	South Yorkshire
Harvey	NE	24/07/2021	N Pennines	M	May 22	North Yorkshire
R1-M1-22	NE	14/07/2022	Yorkshire	M	Aug 22	North Yorkshire
Sullis	RSPB	23/6/2022	Lancashire	F	Sept 22	Cumbria
R3-M2-22	NE	04/08/2022	Yorkshire	M	Oct 22	Cumbria
Sia	RSPB	30/06/2022	Scottish Borders	F	Oct 22	Durham
Heath	RSPB	11/07/2019	Lancashire	M	Nov 22	Cumbria
R3-F1-22	NE	04/08/2022	Yorkshire	F	Dec 22	Cumbria
R2-F1-22	NE	20/07/2022	Cumbria	F	Dec 22	North Yorkshire
R1-M1-21	NE	08/07/2021	Yorkshire	M	Dec 22	North Yorkshire
R1-F3-22	NE	14/07/2022	Yorkshire	F	Mar 23	North Yorkshire
R2-M1-22	NE	20/07/2022	Cumbria	M	Apr 23	North Yorkshire
Lagertha	RSPB	16/06/2022	South Yorkshire	F	Apr 23	North Yorkshire
Nicola	NE	22/07/2022	Cumbria	F	Apr 23	North Yorkshire
Unnamed male	Untagged			M	Apr 23	Cumbria
Unnamed male	Untagged			M	Apr 23	Cumbria
Unnamed male	Untagged			M	Apr 23	Durham
Rush	RSPB	01/06/2021	Lancashire	M	May 23	Lancashire
Dagda	RSPB	18/06/2022	Lancashire	M	May 23	Northumberland
Wayland	RSPB	23/06/2022	Lancashire	M	May 23	North Yorkshire
R2-M3-22	NE	20/07/2022	Cumbria	M	May 23	Northumberland
R2-M1-21	NE	20/07/2021	Cumbria	M	June 23	Cumbria
R2-F2-20	NE	14/07/2020	Cumbria	F	June 23	Cumbria
R1-M2-20	NE	11/07/2020	North Yorkshire	M	June 23	Durham
R1-F1-23	NE	08/07/2023	County Durham	F	July 23	Durham
Rubi	NE	27/06/2023	County Durham	F	July 23	Durham
Martha	RSPB	13/07/2022	Aberdeenshire	F	Aug 23	Northumberland
Hepit	RSPB	05/06/2023	Lancashire	F	Aug 23	North Yorkshire
Harmonia	RSPB	14/06/2023	Lancashire	F	Aug 23	North Yorkshire
Selena	RSPB	20/06/2023	Lancashire	F	Aug 23	North Yorkshire
R3-F1-23	NE	02/08/2023	Yorkshire	F	Aug 23	Durham
R1-F2-23	NE	08/07/2023	County Durham	F	Aug 23	Northumberland
Saranyu	RSPB	19/06/2023	Cumbria	F	Sept 23	Durham
Inger	RSPB	06/07/2022	Perthshire	F	Sept 23	Angus

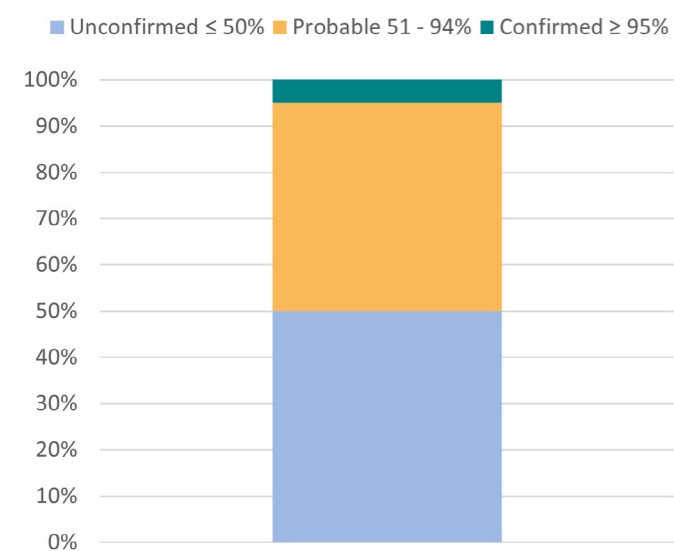
Data compiled by the RSPB and [Natural England's](#) satellite tagging projects and Hen Harrier nest monitoring work carried out by RSPB, Natural England and NERF (Northern England Raptor Forum). The table excludes birds which have died as a result of natural causes – confirmed through post-mortems or evidence gathered in the field. Information is as accurate as possible at the time of publication.

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 or 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.

Suspicious disappearance refers to a satellite tag that was functioning reliably then suddenly stopped transmitting, with no explanation or warning, strongly indicating foul play.

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 emission email us at crime@rspb.org.uk.

Toxicology results from the government's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) (see here) form the primary source of wildlife poisoning data included in Birdcrime reports. In isolated cases, toxicology results may be obtained via other routes, e.g. 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:

- 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 Hen Harriers ([see here](#)), 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](#)).

Acknowledgements

In addition to information received from members of the public, the RSPB would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations who have supplied data used in this report:

- All UK police forces
- National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)
- Chemicals Regulations Directorate (CRD)
- Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) Science Ltd
- Defra
- Natural England
- Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)
- Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
- Raptor Study Group workers
- Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS)
- The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
- SRUC Veterinary Services
- Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate (SGRPID)
- NatureScot
- UK veterinary practices
- The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI NI)
- Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation
- Welsh Government
- Mark Naguib BVMS (Hons)
- The HSA's Wildlife Incident Investigations Scheme (WIIS)



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