

RAPTOR UPDATE...RAPTOR UPDATE...RAPTOR UPDATE...

Raptor Alliance in the News

from Sharon Ayling

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

BLACKPOOL SHOW JANUARY 2014

This was an eye opening weekend, interesting, hectic and I was given lots of information and advice, which I have taken on board and will be discussing at our next meeting in a few weeks time. I want to thank everyone that chatted to me at the show and at the hotel.



Tommy Hawkins was interviewed recently by BBC Merseyside regarding how the loss of members to the Leigh Arms Invitation Flying Club, who have lost

birds through raptor attacks has affected how much money they can now raise for their local charities.

Listen to the interview at

<http://www.pigeonracinguk.co.uk/media/pigeons-in-the-press/>

RAPTOR ALLIANCE DRAW WHICH WAS HELD AT THE BLACKPOOL SHOW

A big thank you to Steve & Lesley Wright from the House of Aarden, whose generosity of giving us one of their Barcelona bred pigeons as the prize helped us raise £850, we would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets.

The Lucky Ticket was No 738 and was won by

PETER FEARN FROM BOLTON

CONGRATULATIONS

The following article was sent to me by
MR ARTHUR J FELL from Mansfield

CASH WINGING IN FOR NOTTS WILDLIFE FUND

Six Notts schools will have assembly sessions with six peregrine falcons after a £300 grant was awarded by a building society.

The cash has been handed to Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust by Mansfield Building Society's Community Support Scheme.

Wildlife in the City young people's worker Jamie Shortland said, "The charity is run by local people to benefit Nottinghamshire's wildlife and habitats and to connect the people of Nottingham with nature and and the green spaces on their doorstep".

I would like to thank **Mr Upex** from **Spalding** for his letter and pictures I received regarding a Sparrowhawk attacking and killing a Collared Dove in his front garden.

Mr Lipex remarked, "I walk out in the countryside every day and over the past few years these attacks have now become more frequent. The small bird numbers have reduced alarmingly and some action must be done to prevent this decline".



Our PR Company "Voice", are constantly working on our behalf, up selling articles on Raptor Attacks and how it is affecting the sport of pigeon racing. Over the last few months they have got articles in the press: 15th November Field & Rural Life Magazine featured an article on 'Pigeon Racing may help people with Autism and help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's', South West Raptor Attacks. Interview with Tommy Hawkins president of the Leigh Arms Invitation Flying Club, where Voice arranged an Interview with BBC Radio Merseyside which was aired in January prior to the Blackpool Show. Billy Bilonick from 'Voice' attended the Blackpool Show, where Billy helped on the Raptor Alliance stand, and spoke to many people regarding the problems they were having with Raptor Attacks, which is all information for future articles. Voice have researched and prepared many Key Message documents, which have either been published or are being sent out to all media outlets for future publications.

I would like to thank Bernard Wallman from Great Shelford for the copy letter he sent me that he personally wrote and had printed in the Cambridge News on 24th December 2013

"We need to get honest answers"

So the RSPB are concerned about the 'dramatic decline' in birds since the 1990's (Letters, 9th December). So they should be!

I can tell them, speaking as a pigeon fancier, that a major part of the problem is as a direct result of their own activities in protecting and promoting the raptor species, like sparrowhawks and peregrine falcons. An equally 'dramatic increase' has occurred in both these species since the 1990's. Their predation on species like the RSPB now 'wring their hands' about is irrefutable.

In the 1990's I could fly my birds at any time of the day or year and never have them attacked by these raptors. Now, with very limited flights, I regularly have my prize birds killed in my own back garden. Who knows how many are killed on route? Each year I also find 'rings of feathers' where a sparrowhawk has killed a song bird or dove in the garden.

The great British public, who according to WHICH magazine spend over £1,000,000 a day on non-raptor wild bird food, deserve a better sense on honesty from the RSPB and the British Ornithology (BTO). The large press machines of both these organisations constantly put out such releases whilst they deliberately obscure the truth about the impact raptor predators have on other avian species.

Oh, and before anyone rushes to reply on behalf of these pro-raptor organisations let them first answer two simple questions:

- 1) How many birds have the RSPB and BTO bred in captivity since the 1990's and released into the environment – (a) garden and woodland non-raptor species (b) raptor species?
- 2) How many birds are killed by raptors in the UK each year?

Let us have an honest answer to both of these questions to help the general public's understanding of this 'decline' situation.

I met Mr Wallman at the Blackpool show where he informed me as to date he has had no responses to this letter – Not surprised are you!

Mr Wallman also sent me an article and follow up information on a 'Winter's Tale' this again was a very interesting read. We will be discussing this and hopefully we will be following through over the next few months.

WE URGENTLY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY ANY OF THE BELOW:

Frequent hawk attacks in your gardens and lofts on racing pigeons and garden birds.

Is your club membership going down due to hawk attacks?

Does your club donate to Charities? Is a lack of membership affecting this?

Do you know anybody (family, friends) who may suffer with Autism, Alzheimer's or any other disabilities where they keep racing/show pigeons, who may like to share how this hobby/sport makes them feel.

Please send your information, letters and pictures to
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Or email: shazi@btconnect.com