

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

Raptor Alliance in the News from Sharon Ayling

JULY/AUGUST 2013

I would like to thank **Vincent Mudd from Bedford** for making us aware of the article below:

Countryside Alliance Grass e-route Weekly e-newsletter

13th June 2013



The RSPB has today published information relating to its use of egg oiling, nest destruction and the culling of birds. This is in response to a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Countryside Alliance.

In his blog the RSPB's Martin Harper admits that in 2011/12 the charity obtained licences from Natural England to kill three adult lesser black-backed gulls and destroy 76 large gull nests and also killed 292 carrion crows and 11 magpies under open general licences.

The charity also said it oiled, to prevent hatching, 73 greylag goose eggs and more than 25 Canada goose eggs and destroyed 195 barnacle goose eggs.

We have also found out, through the Freedom of Information Act request, that the charity obtained a licence in 2011 to destroy the eggs of black swans.

In recent weeks the RSPB has used highly emotive language to criticise the granting of licences by Natural England to destroy the nests of buzzards and manage gull populations. Now, however, we find out that the Society has been carrying out exactly the same sort of activities for its own purposes.

The RSPB's use of the licensing system seems to be perfectly legitimate and justified but looks extraordinarily hypocritical in light of its recent comments about other licence applications.

If the licence system is correct when used by the RSPB, then it must also be correct when used by other applicants.

Barney White-Spunner
Executive Chairman

We are currently arranging more meetings with THE WILD BIRD POLICY TEAM (DEFRA) & NATURAL ENGLAND. The Consultation Response on Law Commission Paper No 206 (Wildlife Law) On Behalf of Pigeon Racing UK/Ireland and the Barristers Advice from Nicholas Valios QC can be found on our website www.pigeonracinguk.co.uk

Webcams/Peregrine Nest Boxes



We have written to various buildings, regarding the Peregrine nest boxes facilitated on their buildings. We have politely asked when nest cleaning we would appreciate leg rings being returned to us. Can you please contact me if you are aware of any hawk/falcon nest boxes in your area?



Voice Communications are busy in the background seeking various leads in the media they have held interviews with **Dave Stuart** and **Terry Mallett** for **BBC Radio Cornwall** which was broadcasted on the 29th July 2013.

Part One: <http://bit.ly/1cj8ZTd> **Part Two** <http://bit.ly/1cj96y6>

Also **Lee Fribbins Confederation Secretary** was also interviewed on **Chelmsford & Southend Radio** on Saturday 3rd August, discussing the sport of **pigeon racing**.

A newspaper article **Pigeon Racing Under Threat in Cornwall and the South West**, was in the **St Ives Times & Echo**.



Petition

I would like to thank all the people who are sending in signed petition sheets. We currently have 26,760 signatures, they are coming in very slowly, and we need to try and reach 100,000 signatures. Please contact me if you would like a petition sheet sent by email or post. Or you can download from the RPRAs website under the heading Raptor Alliance. Remember it's not just pigeon fanciers who can sign please get family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to sign too.



On Monday 22nd July HEART RADIO'S Emma Bunton released six racing pigeons from

Leicester Square, Courtesy of Brian Woodhouse (RPRAs) regarding the imminent birth of the Royal Baby. Each pigeon had a name tag on them – idea being the first pigeon back home would be the sex and name of the Royal Baby. Boys names: George, James and Phillip, Girls names: Alexandra, Charlotte and Elizabeth. Approximately twenty minutes later two pigeons landed at Brian's home (Wanstead) Brian's wife Pat assures us Charlotte touched down first closely followed by George. Maybe it was George who landed first!



I would like to thank **David & Lynn Stuart** from Cambourne, Cornwall, who spoke with 'Voice' regarding their hawk attack problems.

David & Lynn have lived in their current home in Cambourne, Cornwall for 38 years and have always kept racing pigeons throughout their time there. However, since 1990, attacks from Peregrine Falcons and Sparrowhawks have escalated, resulting in the couple losing many of their treasured birds. The Stuarts have witnessed Peregrine Falcons attacking on the wing and working in pairs, flying amongst the pigeons to scatter and disorientate them. Some of the pigeons are so scared that they fly into trees, buildings or simply hit the ground in order to escape the predatory bird.

In April, racing started for the older birds. However, only half of the Stuart's team were remaining for the races, and of these birds many of them were injured or had feathers missing due to raptor attacks. Some of the couple's birds had been killed in training, whilst further birds were lost at race point.

David Stuart commented: "The young bird racing season started on the 6th July, however I can't send any of my young birds as they haven't been properly trained yet. I have lost so many above my loft that my birds are now reluctant to fly and of course, I do not want to send them out if they are in danger of being attacked!

I have tried altering the time I let my birds out, yet they are still attacked within minutes. I shout and clap my hands to try

and scare the predators off but this does not deter the Peregrines.

A young fancier Luke Sturman 12 years from Wadebridge, Cornwall, emailed us about the Peregrine attack on his pigeons. This was very sad as he had one of his beloved pigeons killed. Voice Communications spoke with Luke's grandfather.

At 12 years of age, Luke is part of a new generation of young pigeon fanciers who have become involved with the pastime. Introduced to pigeon racing by his grandfather, Luke has grown up with the hobby, letting his birds fly every evening when he gets home from school and at the weekend. This year, Luke became a member of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association (RPRA).

In June 2013, Luke experienced first hand the devastation that predatory birds can cause. One of his pigeons was attacked by a Peregrine Falcon, and a couple of days later another one of his prized birds did not return home. One of the birds was later found decapitated a short distance from his loft. He has also had two of his birds return to the loft severely wounded. Luke had invested a great deal of time and love into his birds and naturally, these incidents caused a great deal of shock and disappointment.

We need to build a database on how many attacks are happening on a daily basis. If your birds are being attacked by raptors and you would like to highlight the problem, please get in touch: shazi@btconnect.com

RAPTOR DONATIONS TO 9th MAY 2013

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Royal Pigeon Racing Association | Mr & Mrs Gower |
| E Bennett, T Dobs & Clark | North West Homing Union |
| N Hackett | Mr & Mrs Smithers |
| Welsh Homing Union | S L Berry |
| North of England Homing Union | Mr D A Wells |
| Mrs E Whitehead | Doug Nesbitt |
| L F Kidd | Jack Madgin |
| Mr & Mrs Tonks | Graham Jones |
| Mr C Taylor | Ray Till |
| Wootton & Bashley WMPC | Rich Jones |
| Bert Shepherd | Graham Guy |
| Mr E Sellers | Mr R J Hill |
| Mr & Mrs M Tuxford | Mr RK & Mrs J C Mcneill |
| Mr & Mrs M J Todd | Irish Homing Union |
| Mr & Mrs A J Whitehurst | Miss Derryn G De Carteret |
| Mr G A Lonsdale | Mr Alan Atkinson |
| G L Chappell | Mr G Brockie |
| Mr & Mrs C E Wooff | Mr Micheal A Wood |
| Mrs M Alderson | Porchester NRPC |
| Mr K Wren | Mr John Bird |
| Hedon & District Flying Club | Graham, Son & Brown |
| Cooper Bros | Mr Malcolm Todd |
| Mick Vaughan | Mr E V & Mrs P Bennett |
| Mick Boulter | Mr Gould |
| Tom Shepperd | National Flying Club |
| Neil Harris | Haddington & District Homing Society |
| Steve Wyer | Greyhound Flying Club |
| John Tranter | Wawne Ferry Flying Club |
| A & B Shand | Mr J & Mrs D Gilbert |
| Mrs D M Westwell | T Passant |
| Mr & Mrs B Brelsford | Willington Prospect Flying Club |
| Mr Garth Watkins | Flegg Flying Club |
| Mr J Mackenzie | Pennine Marathon RPC |
| A J & B C Turner | F & S C Mercer |
| J M Haverly | T & Mrs G Davis |
| Ernie Rigby | Hull Midweek Flying Club |
| Blackhall Homing Society | Newark Racing Pigeon Club |
| Chesterfield, Newbold & Unstone HS | Salisbury & DFC |
| Guernsey Homing Society | St Ambridge Pigeon Flying Club |
| Mr A Clout | Mr & Mrs Price |
| Malcolm Todd | Hunmanby Pigeon Club |
| Kirkham & Wesham HS | Mr Glencross |
| Mr Thompson | Mr Purvis |
| Mr & Mrs James | Mr Bailie |
| Mr Hartley | Mr Burford |
| Mr Hubbard | Mr Stanbrook |
| House of Commons Dinner | A A Milne |
| R Pickering | W Healy |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| J R Bell | David Miller |
| Kemp & Son | D J Cook |
| J Evans | Mr & Mrs G Sherman |
| J E Waring | M Newman |
| H Davidson | D Pirie |
| J & T Vann | P Bannister & Daughter |
| Gauton Family | Gloucester & District Federation |
| Mr & Mrs Rivers | Mr & Mrs Bate |
| A W B Cox | K C Rose |
| Litherland & Bailey | Mr & Mrs T Andrew |
| C D Potts | K Davison |
| C R Turner | Roy Walker |
| Mr S R Ashton | Mrs J B Saunders |
| Mr R Jones | NEHU |
| IHU | H S Jones |
| Sandwith FC, Cumbria | Dave Williams, Coleford |
| C B Day, Barnsley | T & B Woodhouse, Stotfold, Herts |
| Shillington & DRPC | Selston FC, Nottingham |
| PM Corcoran, Stockport | Proctor Bros, Brown Edge |
| J Boyle, Barking | Joe Deheny, Dublin |
| G W Fisher | Chelmsford City FC |
| Spracklen & Thomas | T A Baker |
| Mr Ashley Wooles | Mr Barry Smith |
| Carnforth & District FC | Rossmore SRFC |
| Ruddingron NRFC | Shiremore HS |
| Mr Keith Williams | Welsh Homing Pigeon Union |
| Eric Moorhouse | Buttershaw & DFC |
| Larry Phillips (Sale of Pigeons) | RPRA Member Donation |

RAPTOR ALLIANCE 2011-2012 Income & Expenditure

| INCOME | | EXPENDITURE | |
|---------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
| RPRA | 30,000.00 | Travel & Meetings | 2,547.78 |
| IHU | 7,000.00 | Public Relations | 28,876.54 |
| NEHU | 4,495.00 | Photography | 1,080.00 |
| WHU | 2,400.00 | Legal Fees | |
| NWHU | 1,734.00 | No 8 Chambers | 3,000.00 |
| Fanciers | 2,495.78 | Knights | 5,000.00 |
| Clubs | 1,391.00 | Secretarial Fees | 2,269.50 |
| | | Equipment Costs | 62.90 |
| | | Website Costs | 1,548.77 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 49,515.79 | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 44,385.49 |
| | | Transferred to P & L 31/10/12 | 5,130.30 |