

Raptor Persecution UK

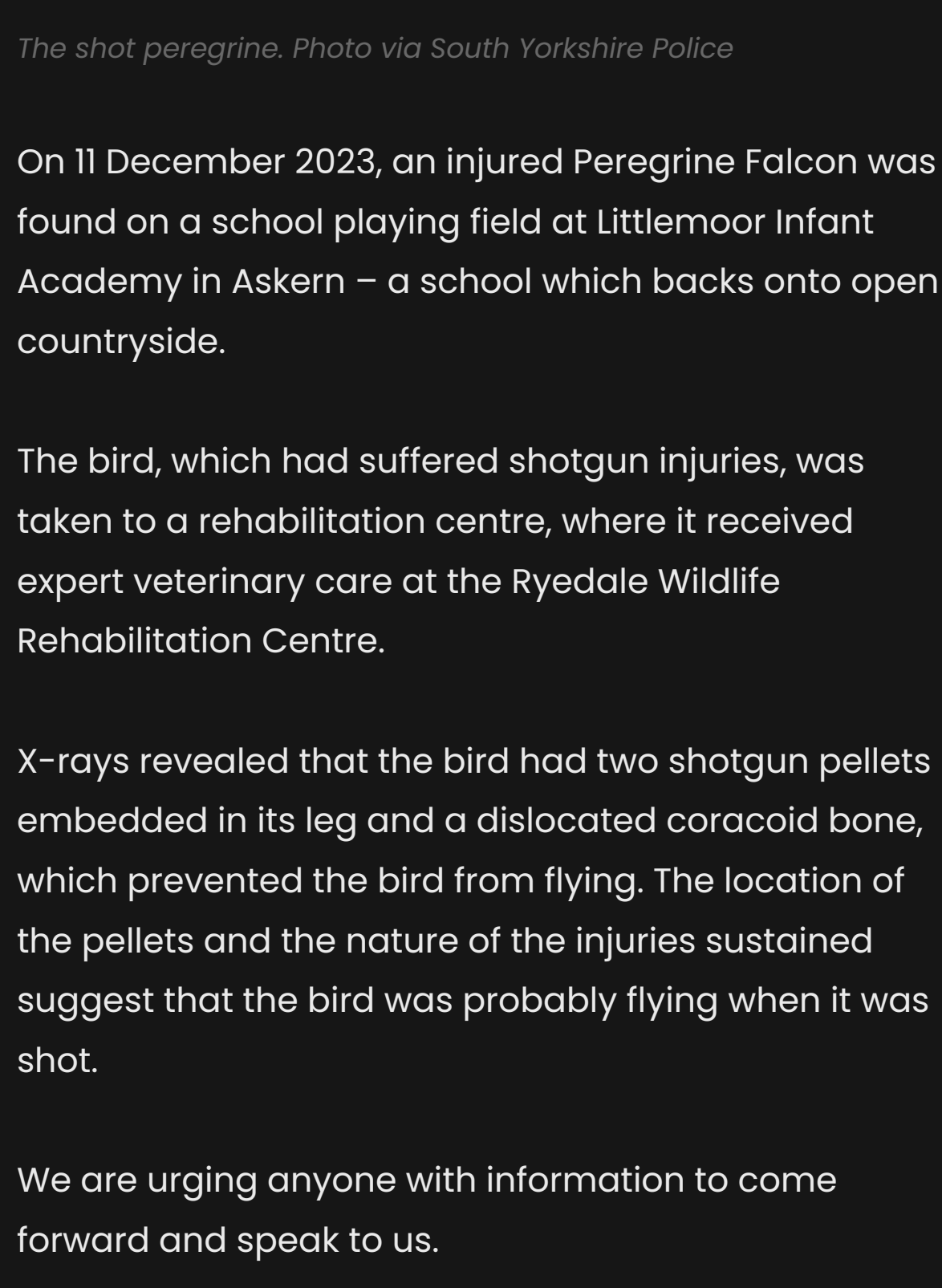
Peregrine found shot in Doncaster – Police appeal for information

RaptorPersecutionUK
January 25, 2024
2023 persecution incidents, News, Persecution Incidents in England peregrine, shooting

Press release from South Yorkshire Police (25 January 2024)

APPEAL FOLLOWING PEREGRINE FALCON FOUND SHOT IN DONCASTER

We are appealing for information alongside the RSPB for information after a juvenile Peregrine Falcon was found with life-threatening injuries in Doncaster.



The shot peregrine. Photo via South Yorkshire Police

On 11 December 2023, an injured Peregrine Falcon was found on a school playing field at Littlemoor Infant Academy in Askern – a school which backs onto open countryside.

The bird, which had suffered shotgun injuries, was taken to a rehabilitation centre, where it received expert veterinary care at the Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

X-rays revealed that the bird had two shotgun pellets embedded in its leg and a dislocated coracoid bone, which prevented the bird from flying. The location of the pellets and the nature of the injuries sustained suggest that the bird was probably flying when it was shot.

We are urging anyone with information to come forward and speak to us.

Peregrine Falcons are the fastest animal on the planet, capable of speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. Pairs will nest on coastal cliff-edges, in quarries and in urban areas on buildings and industrial sites.

Although fully protected and recovering across the UK, illegal persecution is impacting Peregrine numbers. In the UK, the RSPB has recorded 173 incidents of Peregrine persecution over the last 20 years, with a minimum of 195 Peregrines either dying or sustaining injuries as a result of these criminal activities.

In the last five years alone, 29 Peregrines have been illegally persecuted in England with almost a quarter of these incidents taking place in Yorkshire. Data shows that nationally a significant proportion of raptor persecution incidents are linked to land managed for gamebird shooting.

Having suffered injuries which prevented sustained flight, the Peregrine was taken to Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in North Malton, where it received expert care with the support of Battle Flatts Veterinary Clinic. After a month of rehabilitative care the Peregrine was released back into the wild on 13 January 2023.

Jean Thorpe, Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre:

“When a bird has suffered in this way it’s difficult to know if they’ll survive. The stress alone can be too much for them, and rehabilitation can be really challenging.

“We were lucky with this one. It’s a real privilege to have the opportunity to encounter one of these incredible birds but I just wish it was under different circumstances.

“This isn’t the first shot Peregrine I’ve had to care for, and I doubt it will be the last. These crimes are happening right under our noses, it’s unforgivable.”

Inspector Peter Heginbotham, from South Yorkshire Police Wildlife and Rural Crime Team, said: *“To know that a protected Peregrine Falcon has been intentionally shot with a shotgun and found in Doncaster is extremely concerning, but unfortunately not unique. Sadly, Peregrine Falcons are still being shot, trapped and poisoned in northern England.*

“We will thoroughly investigate this crime and would encourage anyone who can assist us with our investigation to please come forward and help us tackle and prevent these crimes from happening.”

If you have any information, please contact us online, via live chat or by calling 101 quoting incident number 576 of 13 December 2023.

Alternatively, to get in touch anonymously, call the RSPB’s dedicated Raptor Crime Hotline on 0300 999 0101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

ENDS

There’s an article about the rehabilitation and a video showing the release of this peregrine on BBC news website ([here](#)).

The story is apparently going to feature on BBC Look North this evening.

Well done and thanks, yet again, to the remarkable Jean Thorpe and her colleagues at Battle Flatts Vets.

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- 1991 persecution incidents (2)
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- 1996 persecution incidents (1)
- 1998 persecution incidents (4)
- 1999 persecution incidents (1)
- 2000 persecution incidents (3)
- 2001 persecution incidents (7)
- 2002 persecution incidents (3)
- 2003 persecution incidents (13)
- 2004 persecution incidents (6)
- 2005 persecution incidents (8)
- 2006 persecution incidents (18)
- 2007 persecution incidents (14)
- 2008 persecution incidents (13)
- 2009 persecution incidents (48)
- 2010 persecution incidents (70)
- 2011 persecution incidents (51)
- 2012 persecution incidents (124)
- 2013 persecution incidents (147)
- 2014 persecution incidents (182)
- 2015 persecution incidents (102)
- 2016 persecution incidents (147)
- 2017 persecution incidents (141)
- 2018 persecution incidents (186)
- 2019 persecution incidents (199)
- 2020 persecution incidents (250)
- 2021 persecution incidents (198)
- 2022 persecution incidents (127)
- 2023 persecution incidents (95)
- 2024 persecution incidents (1)
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- News (4,038)
- Opinion (328)
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- January 2024 (21)
- December 2023 (22)
- November 2023 (29)
- October 2023 (21)
- September 2023 (17)
- August 2023 (50)
- July 2023 (20)
- June 2023 (36)
- May 2023 (37)
- April 2023 (31)
- March 2023 (27)
- February 2023 (24)
- January 2023 (30)
- December 2022 (16)
- November 2022 (15)
- October 2022 (22)
- September 2022 (14)
- August 2022 (33)
- July 2022 (21)
- June 2022 (26)
- May 2022 (32)
- April 2022 (26)
- March 2022 (34)
- February 2022 (28)
- January 2022 (31)
- December 2021 (22)
- November 2021 (27)
- October 2021 (29)
- September 2021 (24)
- August 2021 (26)
- July 2021 (21)
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- April 2021 (41)
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- February 2021 (42)
- January 2021 (38)
- December 2020 (33)
- November 2020 (48)
- October 2020 (29)
- September 2020 (41)
- August 2020 (50)
- July 2020 (40)
- June 2020 (38)
- May 2020 (35)
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- February 2020 (21)
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- August 2011 (18)
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- January 2011 (7)
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- November 2010 (7)
- October 2010 (6)
- September 2010 (10)
- August 2010 (11)
- July 2010 (3)
- June 2010 (10)
- May 2010 (13)
- April 2010 (3)
- March 2010 (86)

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Bendiocarb	buzzard
Cabraich Estate	
Cairngorms National Park	
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Glenturret Estate	
golden eagle	goshawk
hen harrier	
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