

# Raptor Persecution UK

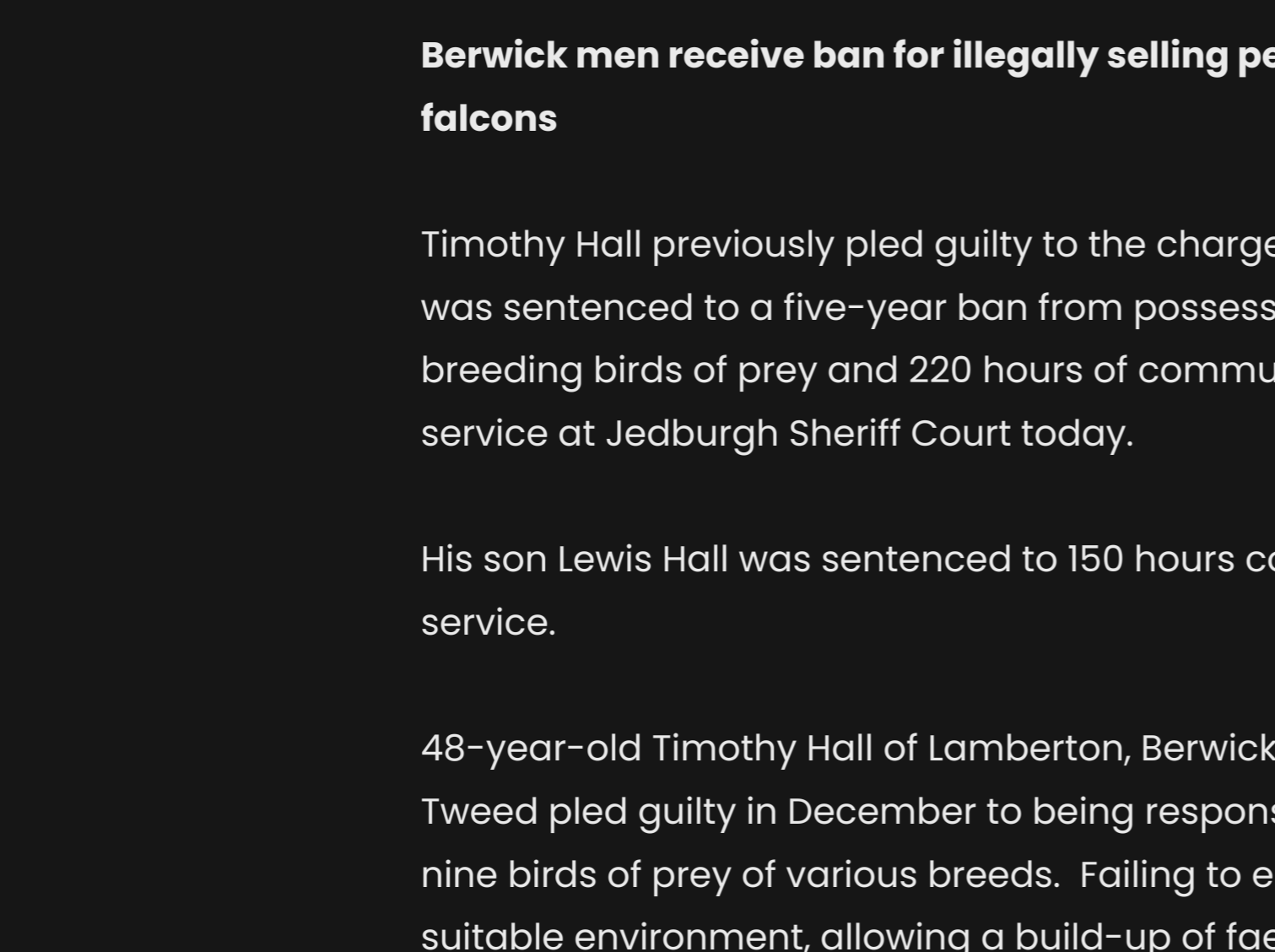
## SSPCA press release on conviction of part-time gamekeeper Timothy Hall & his son Lewis Hall for illegal laundering of Scottish peregrines

RaptorPersecutionUK  
February 15, 2024

2021 persecution incidents, News  
gamekeeper, peregrine

The SSPCA has issued the following press release in response to the recent conviction and sentencing of part-time gamekeeper Timothy Hall and his son, Lewis Hall, for the illegal laundering of Scottish peregrines which they were selling for high prices to buyers in the Middle East.

This press release contains details about the poor conditions provided by Timothy Hall for the raptors found at his address, and the subsequent return to the wild of the stolen peregrine chicks.



Young peregrines returned to the wild. Photo via SSPCA

### Berwick men receive ban for illegally selling peregrine falcons

Timothy Hall previously pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to a five-year ban from possessing or breeding birds of prey and 220 hours of community service at Jedburgh Sheriff Court today.

His son Lewis Hall was sentenced to 150 hours community service.

48-year-old Timothy Hall of Lamberton, Berwick Upon Tweed pled guilty in December to being responsible for nine birds of prey of various breeds. Failing to ensure a suitable environment, allowing a build-up of faeces and urates, and not providing an appropriate supply of water for bathing or drinking and did thereby expose the birds to disease or injury.

Lewis Hall, 23, of Fordyce Cottage, Duns, pled guilty to acquiring for commercial purposes, keeping for sale, and selling wild peregrine falcon chicks between 2020 and 2021.

Scottish SPCA specialist investigator, Mark Rafferty, said, "These birds are a protected species and it is illegal to disturb their nests or illegally breed them.

"During April 2021, information came to light that several Peregrine Falcon nesting sites around the Scottish Borders and East Lothian had seen thefts of eggs and chicks over a prolonged period of time.

"We carried out a raid, alongside the Police National Wildlife Crime Unit (WECU), where we found a number of peregrine falcon chicks and a number of adult birds at Hall's address in Berwick.

"The entire housing/aviary situation was completely unsuitable in terms of size and design for the species being held in each unit. The lack of clean water, and failure to remove the excessive accumulation of faecal and animal tissue waste posed unacceptable health risks to the birds housed within.

"None of the birds were presented with an environment where breeding was likely either naturally or artificial insemination.

"Our team were able to take the peregrine falcon chicks to surrogate nests and monitor them from a distance. Once they had developed fully they were able to return to the wild safely.

"We are extremely disappointed at the sentencing result today. This was a specialised case which has taken years to appear in court. Our team, along with the Police Wildlife Crime Unit and David Anderson, Raptor ecologist from the Scottish Raptor Study Group, worked hard to provide sufficient evidence and DNA testing to get a better result."

"If anyone is concerned about an animal, they can contact our confidential animal helpline on 03000 999 999."

### ENDS

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One thought on "SSPCA press release on conviction of part-time gamekeeper Timothy Hall & his son Lewis Hall for illegal laundering of Scottish peregrines"

#### Paul Shimmings

February 15, 2024 at 3:23 pm

So, they made a lot of money selling chicks, but could not provide suitable facilities for the birds. Obvious they were only interested in profit, and not in birds or their welfare.

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