

Raptor Persecution UK

Goshawk nest abandoned in Cairngorms National Park after shotgun attack – Police Scotland appeal for information

RaptorPersecutionUK

June 28, 2024

2024 persecution incidents, News

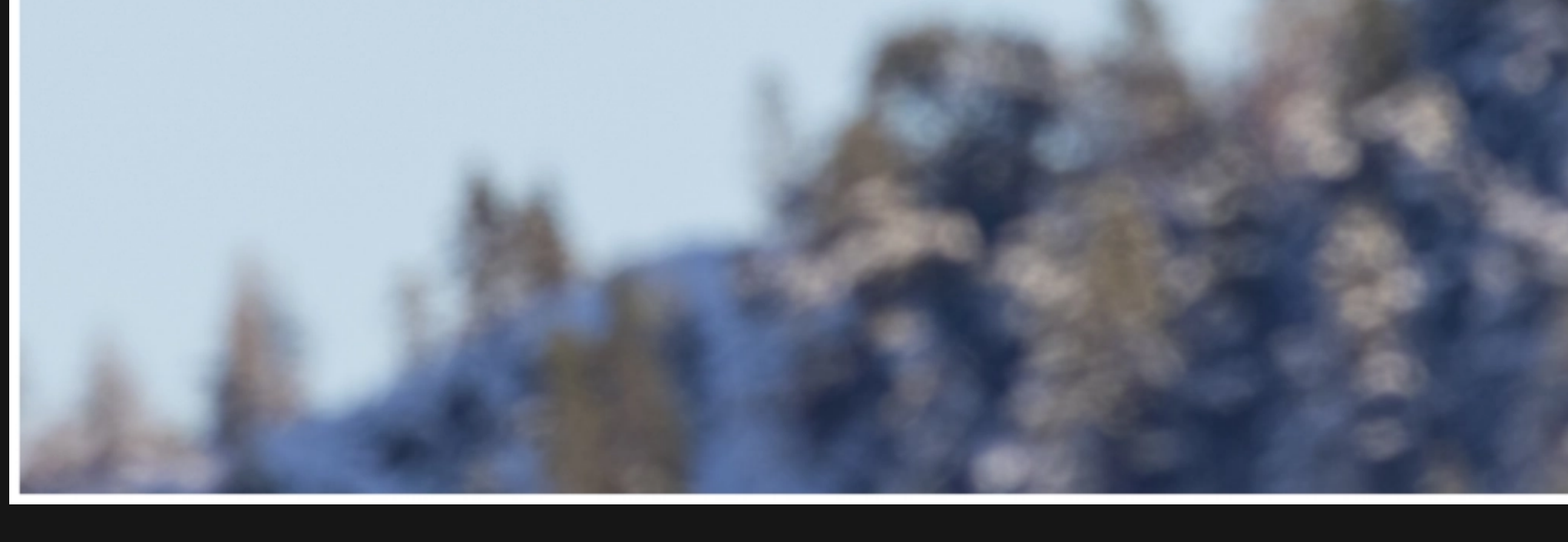
Cairngorms National Park, goshawk, shooting

Press release from Police Scotland (28 June 2024):

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION AFTER GOSHAWK NEST FOUND ABANDONED NEAR LOCH GYNAK

Police are appealing for information after a suspected attempt to target birds of prey in the Strathspey area.

On Saturday, 8 June, 2024, officers received a report of an active Goshawk nest having been found abandoned in suspicious circumstances, within a forest near Loch Gynack.



Goshawk photo by Pete Walkden

Enquiries were carried out at the site, in partnership with RSPB Scotland, showing the nest had been deliberately targeted with a shotgun. The nest and damaged branches were taken for x-ray with the assistance of staff at the Kincaig Highland Wildlife Park.

Police Constable Daniel Sutherland, Highland and Islands Wildlife Crimes Liaison officer, said: *“All birds of prey are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is illegal to kill them. I am asking anyone in the local community who may be able to help with our enquiries to come forward.*

“The area is close to popular walking paths from Newton More. If you were walking in the area during May or early June, and may have seen or heard anything suspicious, then please get in touch.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting reference CR/0211821/24, or make a call anonymously to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

ENDS

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2 thoughts on “Goshawk nest abandoned in Cairngorms National Park after shotgun attack – Police Scotland appeal for information”

Keith Dancey

June 28, 2024 at 7:15 pm

As far as I can tell, firearms offences against wildlife are not officially logged by Police Scotland.

From *Crimes and offences involving firearms statistics*...

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/crime-and-offences-involving-firearms-statistics/>

you will not find crimes against wildlife mentioned, and the ‘victims’ are exclusively people. Where animals are concerned, it says this:

“Cases involving injury to animals are recorded under the category ‘damage to property’ rather than ‘injury’ – which is reserved solely for the purpose of recording injuries to persons.”

But wildlife never constitutes ‘property’ because wildlife has no owner.

So, this case, where a nest has illegally been disturbed using a firearm, will not constitute a firearms offence in official Scottish crime statistics, and thereby will not attract resources aimed at firearms offence hotspots, or local political attention.

Reply

Evad

June 28, 2024 at 8:21 pm

Well done Police Scotland for acting promptly.

When will the Cairngorms National Park Authority put the resources into tackling crime in Scotland's largest NP. A couple of seasons fitting sat tags to a handful of eagles isn't much of a response. Yes they should be tagging eagles, but at least kites, harriers and goshawks too.

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