Raptor Persecution UK

Police launch national Hen Harrier Taskforce to tackle illegal persecution on grouse moors

Posted on 15th June 2021

Blog readers may recall a press release in April 2019 from North Yorkshire Police announcing the launch of a dedicated Hen Harrier Taskforce to combat illegal crime in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. In addition to the illegal persecution of Hen Harriers (and

Hen Harrier, photo by Andy Hay (rspbimages.com)

other birds of prey), the taskforce was also tasked with investigating other wildlife crimes such as badger sett interference, illegal snaring, poisoning and other wildlife crimes, including those associated with the illegal trade in birds of prey and their eggs.

The very first line of that press release said this:

"An operational team, dubbed the National Hen Harrier Task Force operation was tested on an unprecedented location in the Yorkshire Dales".

That was the first time I heard of the 'National Hen Harrier Task Force' but no one knew what it was about.

It begs the long-with the reproduction of a press article about the new Taskforce and suggests that Lee Moore, the police's wildlife officer (Constable) is okay, (this can't be true) he's provide some of my own comments in square brackets.

Here's the press article:

Hen Harrier Operation Launched To Tackle Illegal Persecution

A new task force has been launched to tackle the illegal persecution of hen harriers, one of the rarest birds of prey spotted in the UK.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) will use the knowledge and skills learned from a pilot project in North Yorkshire to roll out the operation across the country.

Given the rarity of hen harriers, significant resource is invested in their conservation. Wildlife crime officers are tasked to check nests in their areas, but they have also invested a concerning amount of time and resources in trying to protect hen harriers from persecution.

Criminals are known to targeting this vulnerable species and committing a variety of wildlife crimes to disturb and persecute them. A recent press release by the police of the pilot project explained:

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Detective Inspector Mark Rayner, North Yorkshire Police, said: "This prosecution of a bird

type of firearm offence?

Reply

George Murdo
June 28, 2024 at 7:40 pm

For me it's similar to allowing suspects to be a part of the discussions of new methods focused on nominally attempting to catch them.

Reply

infof1c0d4eb3f3
June 28, 2024 at 8:15 pm

If my comments are libellous, why do you not take me to court instead of deleting them? I want the truth, and I put my money where my mouth is. I don't delete comments, but you do. That is because you would lose the argument. I challenge you to show my comments, and let your supporters see the truth of it. Set your lawyers, Leigh Day on me, and let's see where we get to.

Rick Smith, 27 years self-employed conservationist.

Reply

RaptorPersecutionUK
June 28, 2024 at 11:40 pm

infof1c0d4eb3f3 (Rick),

Your previous comment was deleted because it was off-topic, libellous of a number of my friends and colleagues, and abusive.

As far as I can tell, it was your first comment here, but out of the blue you'd sent a similar (although considerably longer) email to me a few days ago, to which I didn't respond so I guess you thought you'd try your luck on here.

You've demonstrated a concerningly high level of hatred and anger towards my colleagues, both in that email and in the earlier comment you tried to post on here. I don't know what's suddenly triggered your malevolence and I'm really not interested in finding out.

If you think I'm going to provide you with a platform to amplify your personal attacks you are sadly mistaken.

Reply

Bowland Bruce
June 28, 2024 at 9:38 pm

I would prefer it if they called it the "driven grouse shooting task force", as it's not just hen harriers that are severely impacted by crime linked to dgs, but that might still be a bit too provocative. Give it time though.

Here's hoping DI Harrison lasts longer in his job than incumbents of previous similar work, and that some serious results come out of this task force. I'll cross my fingers!

Reply

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