

Raptor Persecution UK

Dismembered golden eagle found in plastic bag – Police Scotland appeal for information

RaptorPersecutionUK
November 5, 2024
2024 persecution
Incidents, News
golden eagle

Press release from Police Scotland (5th November 2024):

INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY AFTER GOLDEN EAGLE FOUND IN A BAG NEAR PORT OF MONTEITH

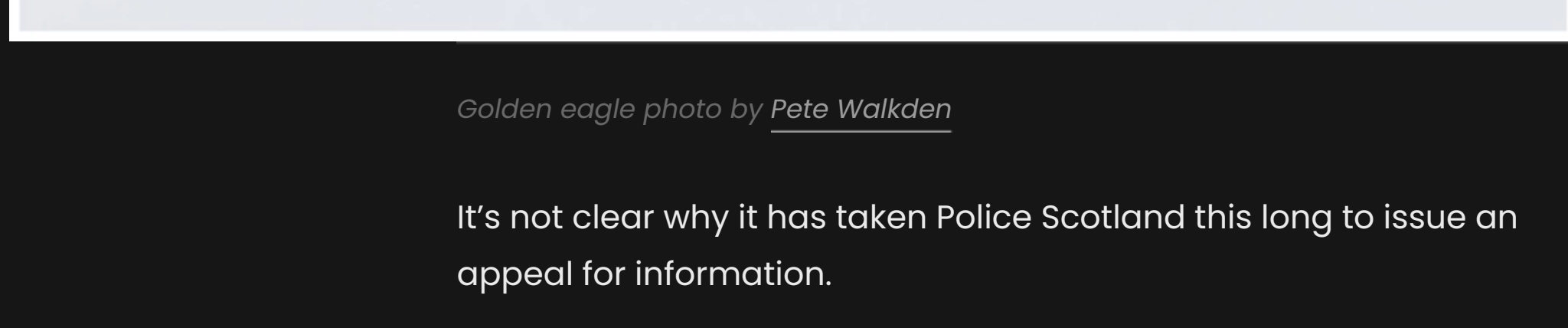
An investigation is under way after a dead golden eagle was found on a forestry track off A81 near Loch Rusky, north east of Port of Monteith.

The eagle was discovered around 11am on Tuesday, 30 July, 2024, wrapped in a plastic bag and body parts had been removed.

Enquiries have been ongoing and now officers are appealing for help to find out how it came to be there.

Golden eagles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting incident number 1166 of 30/07/24 or make a call anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

ENDS



Golden eagle photo by [Pete Walkden](#)

It's not clear why it has taken Police Scotland this long to issue an appeal for information.

There also aren't any indications about which body parts were missing – although I can understand why they wouldn't divulge that level of detail for operational reasons.

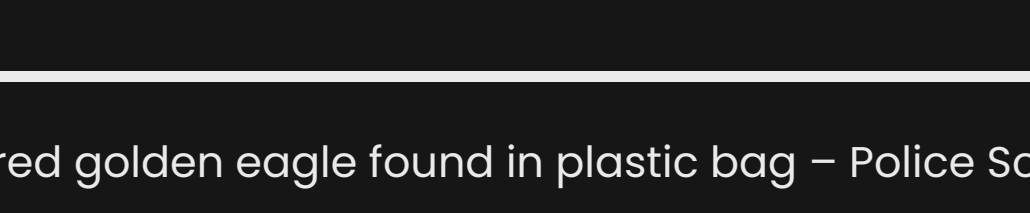
There are reasons why some body parts might have been removed – e.g. legs, either to remove an identifying leg ring, or to disguise spring trap injuries; head, as some sort of 'trophy'.

It's unusual to find a dismembered corpse inside a bag. Why do that? Presumably the eagle was killed and dismembered elsewhere and was put inside the bag to make it easier to transport and dump.

The only other similar incident I can recall was the discovery of nine shot raptors found in bags outside two gamekeepers' houses on Millden Estate and on the riverbank of a neighbouring estate in the notorious Angus Glens (see [here](#)).

Without a tip off from someone, backed up with photographic evidence and/or DNA work, I very much doubt the police will be able to solve this one.

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7 thoughts on "Dismembered golden eagle found in plastic bag – Police Scotland appeal for information"

Vinny Connor

November 5, 2024 at 2:46 pm

OH NO – WHY O WHY – after another disturbing act of such monstrous cruelty and another failed police investigation why is it that 4 months on they distribute the fatalities/news to the public domain with a plea for any information.

With such a poor history in such investigations and convictions isn't it about time to change processes and procedures with such cohort: 'Closed Shop' operations which are clearly failing time and again.

Surely involving the public and seeking information from the immediate aftermath of such tragic events must be more beneficial than seeking information months after when potential fresh information goes underground and lost too visiting tourists.

Another victim and the likelihood of no accountability really is disturbing.

Reply

spagnum morose

November 5, 2024 at 3:16 pm

Could it have had a tag harness on it? Hence wings maybe chopped off to get that off? Could it even have been a captive / falconry bird? Very strange.

Reply

oj55

November 5, 2024 at 3:21 pm

If golden eagles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, I doubt very much that the perpetrator(s) who callously murdered that golden eagle would suffer the full weight of the law, which I doubt very much now that they will be caught, the information being released so long after its discovery, and receive the appropriate punishment. Which should be a hefty fine to cover all costs of the investigation by all the various agencies as well as a lengthy prison term for each and every one of them. Hopefully to possibly help stop further atrocities such as this against our valuable raptors; it seems like every week, if not more often, there is news of another raptor's murder.

Why so long to release the information by Police Scotland? I doubt those who may have been in the area at the time of the eagle's murder could fully recollect exactly that far back what they were doing or saw on that date, and would be easy targets for the defence lawyers

Reply

arkgreenfrog

November 5, 2024 at 4:20 pm

If there was a murder of a person, would the police wait 3+ months to then make an appeal? I don't understand why they wouldn't ask for info IMMEDIATELY – are they part of the raptor persecution cover-up??? What can they possibly be waiting for? A fox hasn't put it in a plastic bag, has it, so it's a definite crime.

Reply

sog

November 5, 2024 at 6:27 pm

I suggest someone with influence asks Police Scotland to explain the long delay. Meanwhile interested folk will be questioning their competence.

Reply

Murmur

November 5, 2024 at 7:13 pm

4 months should be long enough for any tracks to have been covered...

Performative [olicing at its finest.

Reply

Geemeff

November 5, 2024 at 8:06 pm

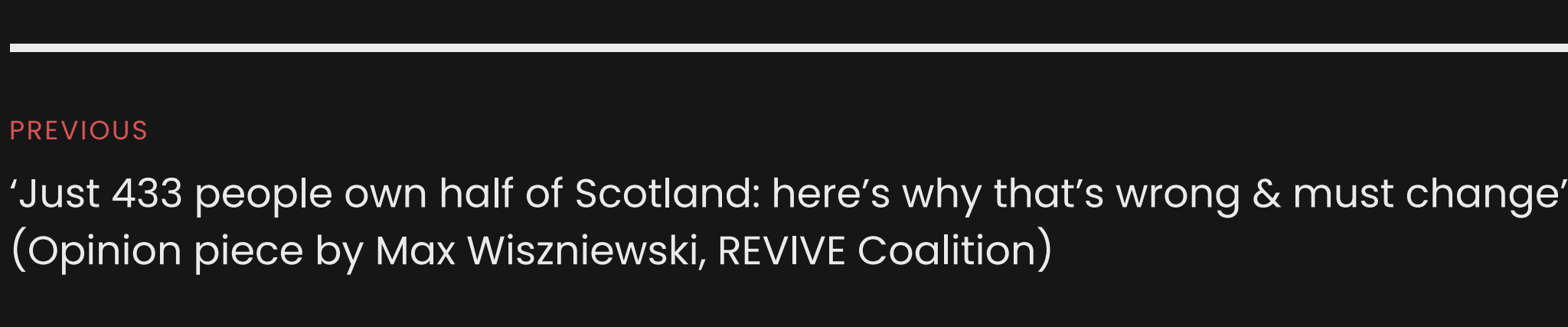
Why the 4 month delay on appealing for information? The perpetrator will never be caught, why is the UK so backward on investigating wildlife crime and prosecuting wildlife criminals and on the rare occasions a case comes to court, the offender is let off with a slap on the wrist.

Contrast this with that American wildlife criminal, who got a sentence of three years and 10 months in federal prison, AND was ordered to pay \$777,250 in restitution. Mind you, he and his mates killed 3,600 birds, but even so, the difference is stark.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/31/us/eagle-killer-sentenced-four-years.html>

Reply

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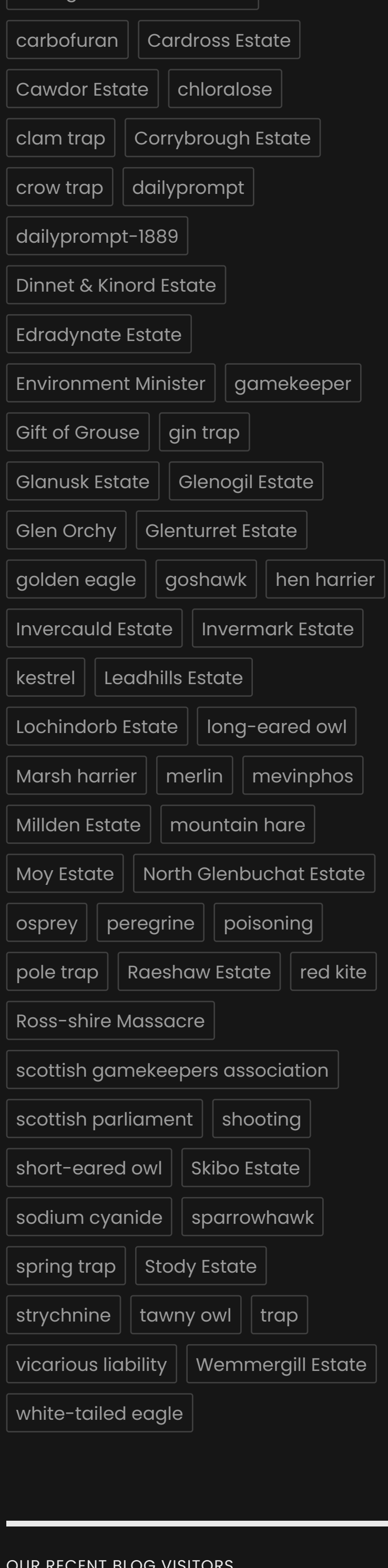
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