

Raptor Persecution UK

Raven found shot dead next to grouse moor in notorious Peak District raptor persecution hotspot

RaptorPersecutionUK

December 11, 2024

2024 persecution incidents, News, Persecution Incidents in England

hen harrier, poisoning, shooting, short-eared owl

South Yorkshire Police have issued the following press release (dated 9 December 2024):

WITNESS APPEAL AFTER BIRD SHOT IN PEAK DISTRICT

We are appealing for information after a protected bird was reportedly shot in Bradfield, near Sheffield.

On 25 August, a dead raven was found in a field near Agden Side Road, Bradfield, in the Peak District.

The incident was reported to the RSPB who collected the bird. An x-ray of the bird showed that it had been shot.

It is believed the bird was shot between 24 August and 25 August.

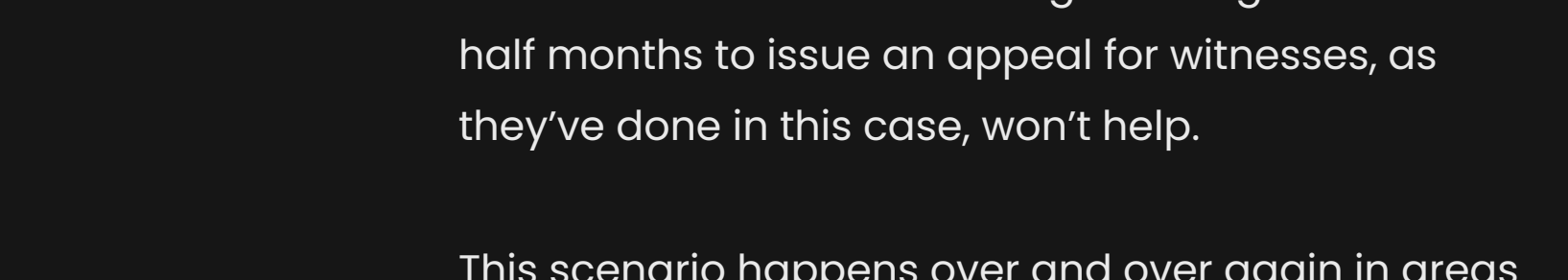
Since the incident, officers have been following several lines of enquiry and we are now appealing for anybody who may have any information about the incident to contact us.

You can report information to us online via live chat or by calling 101, quoting incident number 662 of 9 September 2024.

You can access our online portal here: www.southyorkshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/. Alternatively, you can provide information anonymously via independent charity Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

ENDS

The Agden Side Road lies just beyond the boundary of two grouse moors (Strines and Broomhead) in the Peak District National Park.



This part of the Peak District National Park, dominated by land managed for driven grouse shooting, has a long and sordid history of raptor persecution incidents (e.g. see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) etc).

Prosecutions are rare, largely due to the difficulty of identifying a named individual to link to a crime that has taken place in a relatively remote landscape with few witnesses.

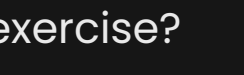
This is certainly not helped by South Yorkshire Police, who rarely cover themselves in glory with timely investigations, although to be fair unless the shooting of this raven was witnessed and recorded, the police have little to go on.

Yes, the usual suspects will be in the frame but for a prosecution the police need evidence – they can't just prosecute on the basis of recurrent past criminal behaviour in the area. Although waiting three and a half months to issue an appeal for witnesses, as they've done in this case, won't help.

This scenario happens over and over again in areas managed for driven grouse shooting, even inside our National Parks, and has been happening for decades. Raptors are routinely shot, trapped and poisoned and the criminals get away with their crimes time after time after time.

This is one (of several) reasons why Wild Justice is currently running a petition calling for a ban on driven grouse shooting. The petition currently stands at 30,000 signatures but it needs 100,000 to trigger a parliamentary debate. If you'd like to sign it, please click [HERE](#).

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4 thoughts on "Raven found shot dead next to grouse moor in notorious Peak District raptor persecution hotspot"

vibrant940fca494

December 11, 2024 at 6:10 pm

[Ed: comment deleted as libellous]

Reply

Christopher Green

December 11, 2024 at 6:13 pm

25th of August! They're 'avin a larf!

Reply

Neilus

December 11, 2024 at 6:35 pm

Is this just a tick box exercise?

"Was there an appeal for information from the public?"

Yes, tick, (but almost 4 months later). Still a tick on paper but a bit useless as far as actually getting any useful info.

Into the box of Wildlife crimes where all boxes have been ticked and all avenues explored but unfortunately no conclusion & no further action to be taken.

A big box!

Reply

JJMARKLE

December 11, 2024 at 8:32 pm

Quite frankly we all know who does it. Poachers – "not on my patch" – well it was you! "Not on my patch"! Absolute liars.

Reply

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