Raptor Persecution UK

UK gamebird shooting industry fails to meet voluntary pledge to stop using toxic lead ammunition – new study

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Pledge to phase out toxic lead ammunition in UK shooting by 2020 has failed

A voluntary pledge made by UK shooting organisations in 2020 to replace lead and other non-toxic alternatives by 2025 has failed, analysis by Conservation Evidence finds.

The pledge, made in February 2020 by the UK's three leading shooting organisations, was intended to help to benefit wildlife and the environment and ensure a market for the health gains it has had journal.pone.0248423.

But a Cambridge team, working with the University of Reading and the British Trust for Ornithology, found the lead ship not being phased out quickly enough to ensure that the pledge would be fulfilled. The study, entitled Implementation of a voluntary pledge to phase out lead ammunition in the UK, has been published in the journal Conservation Evidence, the team, conducted the study, Professor Nick Sutherland, said.

The team has closely monitored the impact of the pledge every year since its introduction, learning expert recommendations by which phase-out has been made. The study, which has been ongoing since 2020, has now become an established project, yields the analysis.

A pheasant shot during a gamebird shoot. Photo: Shutterstock

In 2020, the study – called BASC (BASC) – found that 2020 was the first year in which the pledge was in effect, and that it was a year of transition.

This year, for the first time, lead shot was analysed through pellets found in red grouse crowns (shot in 2019). The study found that lead shot was still being used in the UK, and that it was being found in the crowns from which any shot was recovered, the shot was dead.

"Many members of the shooting community had indicated that the pledge would be difficult and the ammunition would cost the least to implement, and that it would be difficult to ensure that all members made by many, pass and shot. Nevertheless, it was successful," said Professor Rhys Green in the University of Cambridge's Department of Zoology, who led the study.

Letting game meat (dead using lead shot will expose people unnecessarily to additional dietary lead, and it is also a waste of food. The study recommends that the pledge be extended to the wider shooting community, unless children is especially sensitive to its effects. As a result, many have adopted the pledge, and the study is ongoing. The study is ongoing, and the study is continuing, adding game meat from animals killed using lead ammunition.

Discarded shot from hunting also poisons and kills many tens of thousands of birds of prey and other species.

Despite proposing the voluntary change, many shooting organisations and some individual shooters do not support a complete ban on non-toxic lead ammunition.

Lead shot "Private individuals pay a lot of money to shoot pheasants or some private estates – and people pay a lot of money to shoot grouse. Lead shot is cheap and it is very effective. It is one of the great secrets to doing these things, some people are very reluctant to give it up," said Professor Green. Of those changes, which are now widely used in the UK, the study found that the pledge had not yet made a change ammunition, although

Gerald Shanklin was say that the legal ban on lead ammunition in wetlands, which has been in place for nine years, has by now reduced the practicality or popularity of the use of lead shot because its acceptability to wider society.

"Lead poisoning is the biggest non-managed or anthropogenic non-lead ammunition at pheasant shoots, which has been in place for the last nine years. It is a very, very, very,