

# Raptor Persecution UK

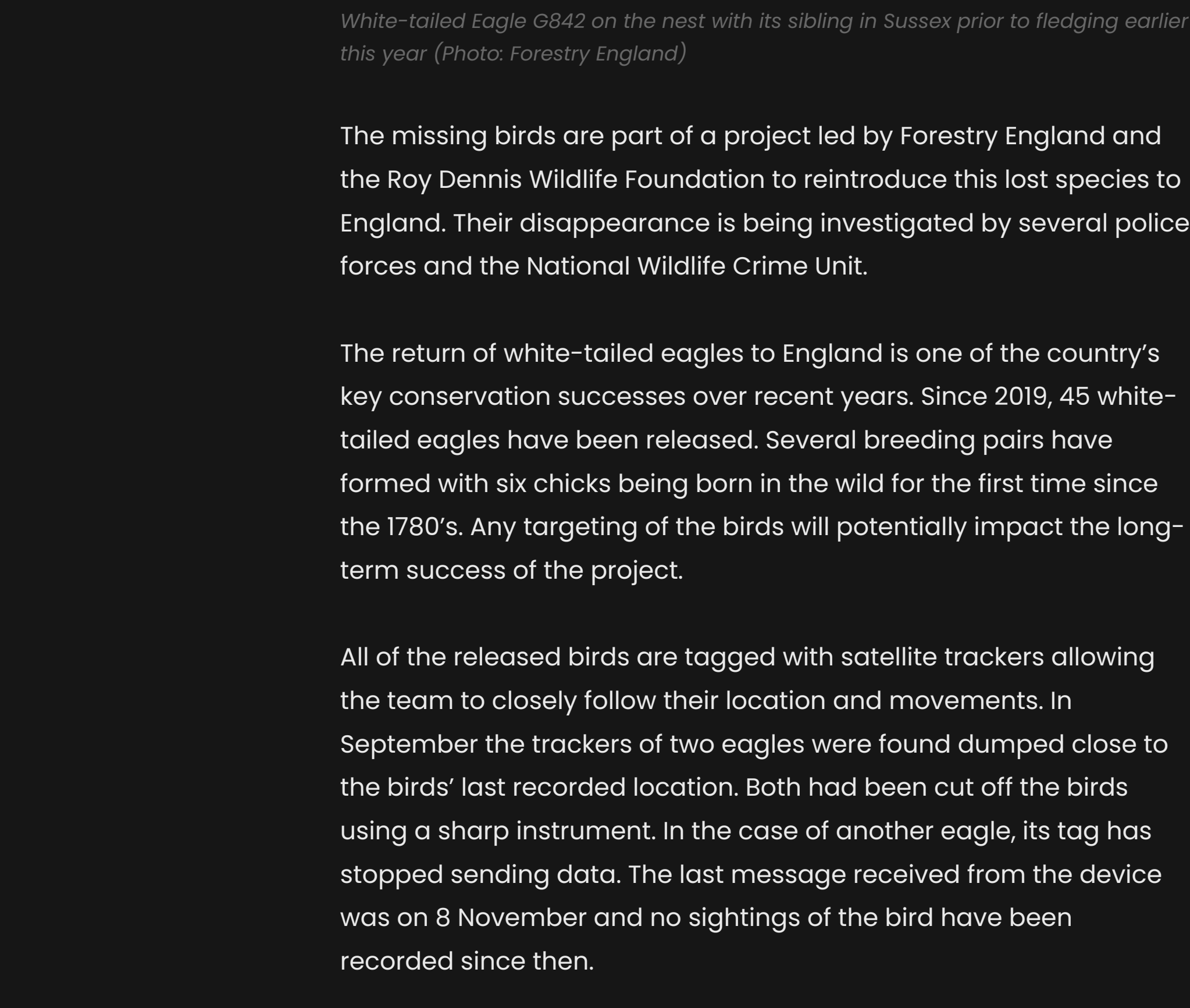
## Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off

RaptorPersecutionUK  
December 17, 2025  
2025 persecution  
Incidents, News,  
Persecution Incidents in  
England, Persecution  
Incidents in Wales  
white-tailed eagle

Press release from Forestry England (17 December 2025)

### THREE WHITE-TAILED EAGLES DISAPPEAR IN SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The public are being asked to help the police investigate the suspicious disappearance of three white-tailed eagles. The cases include a chick born in the wild earlier this year in Sussex, one of the first white-tailed eagles to fledge in England for hundreds of years.



White-tailed Eagle G842 on the nest with its sibling in Sussex prior to fledging earlier this year. (Photo: Forestry England)

The missing birds are part of a project led by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation to reintroduce this lost species to England. Their disappearance is being investigated by several police forces and the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

The return of white-tailed eagles to England is one of the country's key conservation successes over recent years. Since 2019, 45 white-tailed eagles have been released. Several breeding pairs have formed with six chicks being born in the wild for the first time since the 1780's. Any targeting of the birds will potentially impact the long-term success of the project.

All of the released birds are tagged with satellite trackers allowing the team to closely follow their location and movements. In September the trackers of two eagles were found dumped close to the birds' last recorded location. Both had been cut off the birds using a sharp instrument. In the case of another eagle, its tag has stopped sending data. The last message received from the device was on 8 November and no sightings of the bird have been recorded since then.

**Tim Mackrill from the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation** said: *"We monitor the satellite data, showing the bird's minute-by-minute movements, on a daily basis and always investigate any suspicious or unusual data. It was devastating to find the stolen and dumped tags, particularly for the chick in Sussex who fledged this summer and had only just begun its life. So many people in the area had shared the joy of seeing these birds breed again after hundreds of years and our ongoing monitoring has shown how well they were fitting into the landscape. To have that destroyed just a few months later is deeply shocking".*

**Steve Egerton-Read, White-Tailed Eagle Project Officer for Forestry England**, said: *"We are returning this lost species to the English landscape and have had so much support from the public. These special birds are helping people connect with natural world and showing how with a little bit of help nature can thrive. We are asking the public to show this support again by encouraging anyone who has information that may help the police investigation to come forward".*

There was tremendous public support and local pride this summer when two white-tailed eagle chicks fledged from a nest in Sussex. Both were the offspring of eagles released by the project in 2020 and the first pair to successfully breed in England for over 240 years. The two chicks had spent the first few months of their lives exploring the local West Sussex area.

On 26 September, a satellite tag belonging to one of the chicks (G842) was recovered from the River Rother, near Petersfield. It had been removed from the bird using a sharp instrument. Searches in the area to try and locate the body of the bird have so far been unsuccessful.

Sussex Police are appealing for information from anyone who was in or around Harting Down and Petersfield on the evening of 20 September 2025. Any members of the public who may have seen the bird or any suspicious behaviour can contact them on 101 or 0800 555 111 quoting incident number 769.

Dyfed Powys Police are investigating a similar incident on 13 September, where a satellite tag belonging to white-tailed eagle G615 was recovered in remote moorland. The tag had been removed with a sharp instrument before being hidden in an attempt to dispose of it. Searches in the area to try and locate the body of the bird have so far been unsuccessful.

The force is interested in hearing from anyone who was at or around the Gwgia Reservoir, Tregynon between 11am and 1pm or on access land near Bryn y Fawnog between 12 noon and 3pm on 13 September. Callers should quote crime reference number 137.

In a third incident, concerns are growing for G819 after its tag, which usually transmits the data daily, has stopped working. The last transmission was sent on 8 November in the Moorfoot Hills area. Police Scotland are treating the disappearance as suspicious and asking anyone with information to contact them on 101 or 0800 555 111 quoting incident number PS-20251215-1347.

The reintroduction of white-tailed eagles is conducted under licence from Natural England, the Government's wildlife licensing authority. White-tailed eagles are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Disturbing, destroying or interfering with them and their nests are criminal offences.

### ENDS

#### My commentary:

Hands up, who's surprised?

No, me neither.

These reports are so depressingly familiar these days, we've pretty much come to expect them. Although there's something particularly sickening about killing a White-tailed Eagle. It's no lesser crime, in the eyes of the law, than killing a more common species like a Buzzard or a Sparrowhawk – the offence is the same and the available penalty is the same. But these eagles, the UK's largest raptor, have been brought back from the brink through intensive conservation efforts by many people over many decades. Progress has been hard-won, because these birds are slow to mature (between 4-6 yrs) and when they do eventually reproduce they generally only manage to rear one or two chicks per season, on rare occasions three, and they don't necessarily breed every year, which means that population recovery is slow. Any illegal killing, on top of natural mortality, is obviously going to hamper that reestablishment.

And there's no doubt whatsoever that at least two of these eagles were the victims of illegal persecution, given the clear evidence that their satellite tags had been cut off and crude attempts were made to hide them. Given the area in south Scotland where the third White-tailed Eagle has vanished, a well-known persecution hotspot, it wouldn't be a surprise to learn that that bird has also been killed illegally, most likely shot.

Kudos to the White-tailed Eagle Reintroduction team (Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation & Forestry England) for putting out an appeal for information after three months of silence from Dyfed-Powys Police and Sussex Police.

Share this:



8 thoughts on "Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off"

#### Frances

December 17, 2025 at 9:48 am

Reports of these crimes seem to becoming more common and we seem to have at least one a week. I found this in relation to the Moorfoot Hills:

<https://raptorpersecutionuk.org/2024/07/15/why-scottish-grouse-moors-will-have-to-stop-slaughtering-golden-eagles-opinion-piece-in-the-scotsman/>

There must be some concerted action to prevent more deaths. In addition, the punishments available must be made more appropriate to these savage crimes.

Reply

#### SusanH

December 17, 2025 at 10:58 am

So sad and depressing, I have to admit to feeling murderous towards the perpetrators of these crimes

Reply

#### Keith Dancey

December 17, 2025 at 11:20 am

Tim Farron MP, ex-Leader of the Lib Dems, on the release of White-Tailed Eagles:

"This is a **dangerous**, poorly thought out move which is an **unnecessary threat to animal welfare** and **we should stop it**."

Reply

#### stevenmoffatt

December 17, 2025 at 1:09 pm

This type of news was inevitable due to the disinformation propaganda spewed by certain sections of society and failed former party leaders i.e. Tim Farron highlighting nonsense views . I may be wrong but xxxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx Shameful .....

Sent from AOL on Android

Reply

Leave a comment

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

### SIGN ME UP!

BLOG STATS

- 12,833,728 hits

CATEGORIES

- 1989 persecution incidents (1)
- 1990 persecution incidents (1)
- 1991 persecution incidents (2)
- 1992 persecution incidents (2)
- 1993 persecution incidents (2)
- 1996 persecution incidents (1)
- 1998 persecution incidents (4)
- 1999 persecution incidents (1)
- 2000 persecution incidents (3)
- 2001 persecution incidents (7)
- 2002 persecution incidents (3)
- 2003 persecution incidents (13)
- 2004 persecution incidents (6)
- 2005 persecution incidents (8)
- 2006 persecution incidents (18)
- 2007 persecution incidents (14)
- 2008 persecution incidents (13)
- 2009 persecution incidents (49)
- 2010 persecution incidents (71)
- 2011 persecution incidents (51)
- 2019 persecution incidents (124)
- 2013 persecution incidents (147)
- 2014 persecution incidents (182)
- 2015 persecution incidents (106)
- 2016 persecution incidents (149)
- 2017 persecution incidents (146)
- 2018 persecution incidents (215)
- 2019 persecution incidents (218)
- 2020 persecution incidents (275)
- 2021 persecution incidents (232)
- 2022 persecution incidents (161)
- 2023 persecution incidents (135)
- 2024 persecution incidents (83)
- 2025 persecution incidents (63)
- Henry the Hen Harrier (82)
- News (4,487)
- Opinion (328)
- Our satellite tagged golden eagles (18)
- Persecution Incidents in England (837)
- Persecution Incidents in Irish Republic (83)
- Persecution Incidents in Northern Ireland (61)
- Persecution Incidents in Wales (78)
- The Real Price of Grouse (8)

RECENT COMMENTS

- stevenmoffatt on Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off
- Keith Dancy on Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off
- SusanH on Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off
- Country Born and Bred on 40 shot birds dumped on road in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire
- Country Born and Bred on Three satellite-tagged White-tailed Eagles disappear in suspicious circumstances in England, Wales & Scotland – two tags had been cut off

ARCHIVES

- December 2025 (11)
- November 2025 (26)
- October 2025 (22)
- September 2025 (18)
- August 2025 (23)
- July 2025 (19)
- June 2025 (13)
- May 2025 (19)
- April 2025 (22)
- March 2025 (22)
- February 2025 (19)
- January 2025 (20)
- December 2024 (18)
- November 2024 (26)
- October 2024 (18)
- September 2024 (17)
- August 2024 (20)
- July 2024 (13)
- June 2024 (16)
- May 2024 (17)
- April 2024 (20)
- March 2024 (28)
- February 2024 (23)
- January 2024 (27)
- December 2023 (22)
- November 2023 (29)
- October 2023 (21)
- September 2023 (17)
- August 2023 (50)
- July 2023 (26)
- June 2023 (36)
- May 2023 (37)
- April 2023 (31)
- March 2023 (27)
- February 2023 (24)
- January 2023 (30)
- December 2022 (16)
- November 2022 (15)
- October 2022 (22)
- September 2022 (14)
- August 2022 (33)
- July 2022 (21)
- June 2022 (26)
- May 2022 (32)
- April 2022 (26)
- March 2022 (34)
- February 2022 (28)
- January 2022 (31)
- December 2021 (22)
- November 2021 (27)
- October 2021 (29)
- September 2021 (24)
- August 2021 (26)
- July 2021 (21)
- June 2021 (15)
- May 2021 (35)
- April 2021 (41)
- March 2021 (38)
- February 2021 (42)
- January 2021 (38)
- December 2020 (33)
- November 2020 (48)
- October 2020 (29)
- September 2020 (41)
- August 2020 (50)
- July 2020 (40)
- June 2020 (38)
- May 2020 (35)
- April 2020 (27)
- March 2020 (30)
- February 2020 (21)
- January 2020 (22)
- December 2019 (34)
- November 2019 (21)
- October 2019 (30)
- September 2019 (23)
- August 2019 (31)
- July 2019 (30)
- June 2019 (30)
- May 2019 (30)
- April 2019 (30)
- March 2019 (42)
- February 2019 (23)
- January 2019 (25)
- December 2018 (23)
- November 2018 (25)
- October 2018 (22)
- September 2018 (13)
- August 2018 (35)
- July 2018 (26)
- June 2018 (13)
- May 2018 (31)
- April 2018 (37)
- March 2018 (31)
- February 2018 (26)
- January 2018 (28)
- December 2017 (31)
- November 2017 (38)
- October 2017 (28)
- September 2017 (26)
- August 2017 (28)
- July 2017 (29)
- June 2017 (30)
- May 2017 (37)
- April 2017 (27)
- March 2017 (31)
- February 2017 (30)
- January 2017 (37)
- December 2016 (25)
- November 2016 (28)
- October 2016 (23)
- September 2016 (30)
- August 2016 (29)
- July 2016 (27)
- June 2016 (31)
- May 2016 (30)
- April 2016 (25)
- March 2016 (23)
- February 2016 (15)
- January 2016 (10)
- December 2015 (12)
- November 2015 (23)
- October 2015 (17)
- September 2015 (18)
- August 2015 (22)
- July 2015 (37)
- June 2015 (37)
- May 2015 (33)
- April 2015 (27)
- March 2015 (25)
- February 2015 (19)
- January 2015 (23)
- December 2014 (22)
- November 2014 (23)
- October 2014 (40)
- September 2014 (15)
- August 2014 (19)
- July 2014 (10)
- June 2014 (14)
- May 2014 (23)
- April 2014 (33)
- March 2014 (25)
- February 2014 (18)
- January 2014 (21)
- December 2013 (20)
- November 2013 (15)
- October 2013 (16)
- September 2013 (19)
- August 2013 (22)
- July 2013 (32)
- June 2013 (12)
- May 2013 (18)
- April 2013 (18)
- March 2013 (23)
- February 2013 (22)
- January 2013 (24)
- December 2012 (21)
- November 2012 (20)
- October 2012 (32)
- September 2012 (18)
- August 2012 (27)
- July 2012 (23)
- June 2012 (20)
- May 2012 (26)
- April 2012 (17)
- March 2012 (27)
- February 2012 (28)
- January 2012 (13)
- December 2011 (20)
- November 2011 (26)
- October 2011 (11)
- September 2011 (20)
- August 2011 (18)
- July 2011 (19)
- June 2011 (15)
- May 2011 (23)
- April 2011 (14)
- March 2011 (13)
- February 2011 (16)
- January 2011 (7)
- December 2010 (10)
- November 2010 (7)
- October 2010 (6)
- September 2010 (10)
- August 2010 (11)
- July 2010 (3)
- June 2010 (10)
- May 2010 (13)
- April 2010 (3)
- March 2010 (86)

Aldicarb	alphachloralose
Balmoral Estate	barn owl
Bendiocarb	buzzard
Cabrach Estate	
caingorms National Park	
carbafuran	Cardross Estate
Cawdor Estate	chloralose
clam trap	corrybrough Estate
crow trap	daillyprompt
daillyprompt-1889	
Dinnert & Kinard Estate	
Edradynate Estate	
Environment Minister	gamekeeper
Gift of Grouse	gin trap
Glanusk Estate	Glenogil Estate
Glen Orchy	Glenturret Estate
golden eagle	goshawk
Invercauld Estate	Invermark Estate
kestrel	Leadhills Estate
Lochindorb Estate	long-eared owl
Marsh harrier	merlin
Milden Estate	mountain hare
May Estate	North Glenbuchat Estate
osprey	peregrine
pole trap	Raeshaw Estate
red kite	
Ross-shire Massacre	
scottish gamekeepers association	
scottish parliament	shooting
short-eared owl	Skibbo Estate
sodium cyanide	sparrowhawk
spring trap	Stoddy Estate
strychnine	tawny owl
trap	
vicious liability	Wemmergill Estate
white-tailed eagle	

OUR RECENT BLOG VISITORS

76,544 Pageviews  
Nov 17th - Dec 17th

