

Raptor Persecution UK

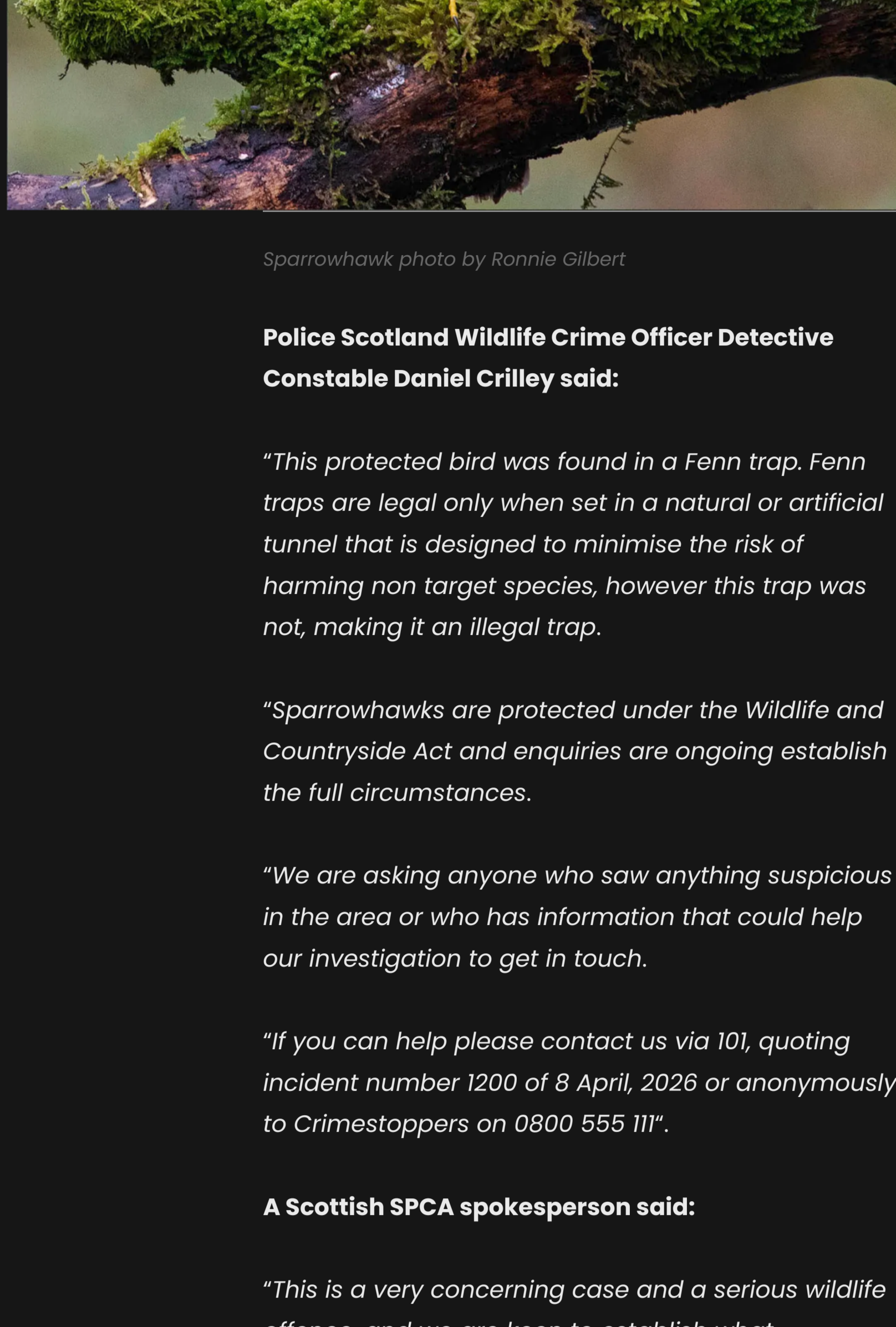
Sparrowhawk euthanised in Scottish Highlands after illegal trap caused ‘catastrophic’ leg injury

RaptorPersecutionUK
 May 11, 2026
 2026 persecution incidents, News
 sparrowhawk, spring trap, trap

A Sparrowhawk has been euthanised after it was found in an illegally-set trap with a “catastrophic” leg injury.

The bird was found with its leg caught in a Fenn trap on Saturday 4 April 2026 near to the Fairy Glen Nature Reserve on the Black Isle in the Scottish Highlands.

The Scottish SPCA attended the scene and found the Sparrowhawk with a broken leg and in “extreme and unnecessary pain” and a decision was taken to euthanise to prevent further suffering.



Sparrowhawk photo by Ronnie Gilbert

Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Officer Detective Constable Daniel Crilley said:

“This protected bird was found in a Fenn trap. Fenn traps are legal only when set in a natural or artificial tunnel that is designed to minimise the risk of harming non target species, however this trap was not, making it an illegal trap.

“Sparrowhawks are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and enquiries are ongoing establish the full circumstances.

“We are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area or who has information that could help our investigation to get in touch.

“If you can help please contact us via 101, quoting incident number 1200 of 8 April, 2026 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111”.

A Scottish SPCA spokesperson said:

“This is a very concerning case and a serious wildlife offence, and we are keen to establish what happened. The bird was found in extreme and unnecessary pain.

“The trap had caused a catastrophic leg-break injury and sadly resulted in the bird having to be put to sleep. We urge anyone with information please contact Police Scotland or call our animal helpline on 03000 999 999”.

A spokesperson for the RSPB said:

“We condemn the injuries caused to a Sparrowhawk in an illegal trap set on land adjacent to our Fairy Glen Nature Reserve, on the Black Isle in April.

“We appeal to the public to provide information either directly to Police Scotland or via Crimestoppers which might assist with their enquiries into this incident. We welcome the swift action of the Scottish SPCA in responding and trying to help save this bird”.

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superbperfectlyb19f037b66

May 11, 2026 at 10:03 pm

Does anyone know if they would have fingerprinted and/or taken DNA samples from the trap?

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