Raptor Persecution UK

The dark side of UK's gamebird shooting industry – Channel 4 News

Raptorpersecutionuk | November 4, 2019 | 2019 persecution incidents, News, Persecution incidents in England

Last Friday evening, Channel 4 News had another good piece exposing the dark side of the UK's gamebird shooting industry.

It included some pretty gruesome undercover footage from gamebird rearing farms in England, including Westfield Farms near Pickering, North Yorkshire, who've featured on this blog several times over the years.

The piece also covered grouse shooting, again in North Yorkshire, and included information about the [Moll Marsh Harrier](#) found critically injured on a grouse moor in the Weardale area of the North York Moors National Park in August this year. She was about two months old. She didn't survive her catastrophic injuries.



There's an interview with Fiona Hoare, one of the UK's leading veterinary pathologists, discussing the damage caused to this Marsh Harrier and the wider issue of shot raptors, and Howard Jones from the RSPB's investigations team, who represents the society's call for gamebird shoot licensing. There's also an interview with Matthew Goodall from the GWCT who says he doesn't think there's a need for licensing as the industry can police itself. He said that with a straight face.

The timing of the piece was clearly intended to coincide with Defra's Call for Evidence on gamebird rearing and shooting, designed to inform future policy which may include licensing. That consultation has now closed and we await Defra's response.

The Channel 4 News piece is about 8 minutes long but be warned, it contains some distressing footage.



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2 thoughts on "The dark side of UK's gamebird shooting industry – Channel 4 News"

Jeremy Moore
November 4, 2019 at 5:27 pm

A brilliant report by Alex Thompson. Well done Alex.

Reply

Richard Mills
November 4, 2019 at 6:48 pm

I don't know about licencing, it should be needed for it in this era. They could make more money by diversifying into tourism, and probably employ more people, who wants a moor full of grouse and nothing else? Only those stoic with guns.

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