

From:	"don scott"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: Birds of prey: Northern Ireland
Date:	Thu, 14 Feb 2008 12:07:49 +0000

1. **What is your name?** Don Scott. CBiol. MIBiol. (Chartered Biologist) Specialising in Birds of Prey & Owls. Founder Member (1992) of the Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group. Member of the Institute of Biology.

2. **If you have a job title, what is it?** Visiting Research Associate, School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University. Belfast. Northern Ireland.

3. **What is the name of your organization and country?** The Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group.

4. **Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area?** Common Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier (rare), Merlin (very rare). I have studied the Hen Harrier, for the past 23 years. Also the other 15-species of Harrier worldwide. Have recently written a book on these birds entitled - Harriers - Journey's around the World. (in press at present).

5. **Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered?** Hen Harrier & Merlin, Barn Owl, & Short-eared Owl.- Mainly habitat problems and occasionally birds are persecuted.

6. **Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are.** Basically studying their numbers and reporting to the bodies responsible for their overall welfare.

7. **Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received?** Occasionally by government, but I personally have been given private donations to study Harriers worldwide.

8. **Does your government recognize the importance of maintaining/improving the status of birds of prey? If so, in what way do they support it?** At present I doubt it, as there is only a new government in control here since May 2007, after all the conflict that lasted here for over 30 years. Probably in the future when things are more organised and settled, will we see them taking an interest in all species of wildlife. I have also written and published over 40-scientific papers to highlight the problems etc. etc. about different species of raptors, but mainly on harriers.

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. I keep my own Owls and regularly visit schools etc. across the religious divide in Northern Ireland to educate children of all ages and also adults. I appear on local TV here and also radio to get things across about our birds of prey and Owls.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? I just love birds of prey and Owls and Harriers are my favourite species.

11. May we have permission to print this email interview on our website? Yes.