

Subject:	FW: Birds of prey: Scotland
Date:	Thu, 14 Feb 2008 08:48:45 -0000
From:	"George Smith"
To:	ktes2008@yahoo.com

1. What is your name? - George Davidson Smith
2. If you have a job title, what is it? By profession I am an Electrical Engineer, Voluntarily I am a Peregrine co-ordinator
3. What is the name of your organization and country? Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group as part of The Scottish Raptor Study Group (SRSG). SRSG comprises 10 regional groups, who cover all raptor species throughout Scotland. see web site.
<http://www.scottishraptorgroups.org/>
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? 1. Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco Tinunculus*), 2. Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter Nisus*), 3. Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), 4. Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*). 5. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier endangered because of Human Persecution (gamekeepers)
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. There are no formal protection programmes, but several sites are monitored by CCTV, and there is a section of the Police force who specialise in wildlife crimes
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? In general the group is funded by the members, but fuel expenses can be claimed from a government body (Scottish Natural Heritage)
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? The Government does recognise the importance of birds of prey, and has an obligation to the European Union to monitor and enhance the status of raptors as environmental indicators. The fuel cost payment to the SRSG is part of the support they give.
9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. There are several CCTV set ups in Scotland open to the public, covering Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Golden Eagle, Osprey

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? We are very fortunate in my area to have many experienced volunteers who undertake fieldwork every year, and we maintain detailed databases covering 40 years for some species. If we could find some way to reduce persecution the populations of Hen Harrier, Goshawk, and Golden Eagle in particular would be much higher than at present. On a national (UK) scale, we hold significant populations of Peregrine, and Goshawk.

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