



This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

**JNCC 03 N06
September 2003**

JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

**UPDATE ON JNCC/COUNTRY AGENCY ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE UK
RAPTOR WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Paper by David Stroud, JNCC; Des Thompson, SNH; Ian Carter, English Nature and
Siân Whitehead, CCW**

1. Background to publication of the UK Raptor Working Group Report

1.1 The Committee has previously been briefed on the establishment and working of the UK Raptor Working Group (RWG) and related issues (JNCC 95 P28; JNCC 97 P3; JNCC 98 N10; JNCC 99 N15; JNCC 00 P07; JNCC 01 D02). The Terms of Reference of the RWG were to:

- i. consider population status of birds of prey;
- ii. identify species alleged to be causing problems;
- iii. identify, in particular, the impact of such species on game birds and moorland management and on racing pigeons;
- iv. identify gaps in research, and future needs, and identify possible sources of funding;
- v. consider statutory and other mechanisms for the resolution of problems.

1.2 The Working Group focused on three particular issues:

- i. conflicts involving Hen Harriers, Peregrines and Red Grouse;
- ii. conflicts involving Sparrowhawks, Peregrines and racing pigeons;
- iii. conflicts involving various birds of prey and Pheasants, especially at release pens.

1.3 The RWG was chaired jointly by JNCC and DETR, and had members representing the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Landowners Federation, Game Conservancy Trust, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Scottish Raptor Study Groups, Scottish Executive and the Royal Racing Pigeon Association. It published its final report and recommendations in February 2000.

1.4 As part of a public consultation on the report, the Joint Committee agreed its response to the RWG's recommendations in March 2001 ((JNCC 01 D2). That paper laid out, in some detail, proposed actions by the statutory agencies in response to the RWG's report.

2. **An update on statutory agencies actions in response to the report's recommendations**

2.1 A wide range of activity has occurred in response to the RWG's recommendations since they were published and the current paper summarises this. Annex 1 lists the 25 RWG recommendations, drawn together under four broad generic issues. It highlights not only the major successes but also those areas where there has been less progress and where there will thus be a need to focus further activity.

3. **Other issues**

3.1 Since the publication of the RWG report, a number of related issues have assumed greater importance. These include the following:

- i. better information on international contexts (of both population sizes and trends) is highly desirable. The development of a pan-European synthesis would benefit from UK expertise in survey design and volunteer management. As has been highlighted in the context of developing the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)/JNCC Partnership, there is major potential for the UK to play a key role in developing European raptor monitoring, possibly by developing a project proposal for implementation by a consortium of interested parties in other European countries;
- ii. there is developing consensus that the Wildlife & Countryside Act does not adequately transpose all the requirements of the EC Birds Directive regarding the legal status of traditionally used nest sites outwith the nesting season. Legal advice has been sought by SNH which supports this. Whilst there is clearly no case to justify year-round protection of the nests of *all* bird species, there does appear to be strong legal and conservation grounds to promote such protection for the nests of certain high status species, the successful breeding of which is linked to the continued existence of traditionally-used nest structures. Indeed, the destruction of these raptor nests is becoming a more prevalent means of deterring nesting. These species include Golden Eagle, Osprey and Hen Harrier. There may be opportunities to pursue this in the context of Defra's review of Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill, when there should be dialogue with Defra and Scottish Executive respectively.

A. POPULATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>1. We recommend that current programmes of monitoring of birds of prey undertaken by JNCC and the Country Agencies, RSPB, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, the Raptor Study Groups and others are maintained at least at existing levels of activity to provide the necessary feedback on the changing status of populations. The productive partnerships between the statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations in monitoring birds of prey should continue to be developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National surveys of Peregrine and Golden Eagle were undertaken in 2002 and 2003 with co-funding from RSPB under the Statutory Conservation Agency/RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Survey (SCARABBS) Agreement. Other national surveys planned under SCARABBS, include those for Hen Harrier (2004), Marsh Harrier (2005), Merlin (2006) and Osprey (2008). • In response to pressing needs for better information on Short-eared Owls (especially for identification of SPAs), a pilot survey is proposed under the SCARABBS programme in 2004, followed by a full national survey in 2007. • English Nature has established a major Hen Harrier Recovery Project in northern England, running from 2002-2004. This aims to identify the factors responsible for the current extremely poor conservation status of Hen Harriers in upland England. • SNH has lead in developing a Scottish Raptor Monitoring Agreement (SRMA). This partnership initiative has brought together seven bodies with a current involvement in raptor monitoring in Scotland. It provides a forum for development of procedures and standards for survey planning, data collation and sharing. The Agreement was launched in June 2002 and has been effective in developing improved liaison between data suppliers (especially the Scottish Raptor Study Groups) and data users (especially SNH). Initiatives since its launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal for JNCC to develop a partnership national monitoring scheme for reporting on raptor numbers (perhaps similar to the WeBS model for waterbirds) will be undertaken incrementally, learning from the development of data collation processes in Scotland under the SMRA. JNCC is participating in the SRMA Steering Group to assist the transfer of experience between countries. • A discussion paper on enhancing monitoring of raptors in winter was prepared for the SPA Scientific Working Group – in response also to JNCC's 2001 SPA Review. • The Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) co-ordinated a national survey of Honey Buzzards in 2000. Foot & Mouth Disease constrained proposed follow-up work in 2001.

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
	<p>have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishment of a Steering Group (serviced by SNH) to develop work under the Agreement; ○ the drafting, with the Scottish Raptor Study Groups of a raptor monitoring manual, establishing survey and monitoring standards and methodologies. The publication of the manual (currently subject to wide consultation) will be very important in establishing standard monitoring methods for raptors throughout the UK; and ○ funding of a Raptor Monitoring Officer by SNH to support the SRMA Steering Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recent casework in Wales has highlighted the need for raptor workers to collect and maintain detailed data in their field notebooks in the event of subsequent legal challenges to the quality of data supporting site designations. This issue will be stressed in the raptor monitoring manual. ● SNH, with the British Ornithologist's Union, convened a major conference in December 2000 on the theme of '<i>Birds of prey in a changing environment</i>'. The conference proceedings will be published in late 2003 and will summarise a wide range of data and information relevant to UK raptor conservation. 	
<p>2. We recommend that the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, as a widely supported, independent body, should</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Rare Breeding Birds Panel is one of the participating signatories to the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of the Panel, JNCC commissioned a major independent review of RBBP's

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>be encouraged to develop further its partnerships with the Raptor Study Groups and others, in order to collate and archive relevant data, and to publish appropriate annual summaries of the population status of birds of prey.</p>		<p>data and information systems in 2001. Proposals to transfer the Panel's data to a GIS-based platform will be made later in 2003. This will enable better analysis of existing data: there will remain the need to enhance the quality of submitted data, however.</p>
<p>3. We recommend the development of enhanced inter-agency co-ordination of the implementation of the government Campaign against Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife in Scotland (similar to committees already established in Wales and England) to include other methods of illegal killing of wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JNCC formerly represented the three country agencies on the Defra-co-ordinated Campaign Group. It has been agreed that in future, it would be more effective for each of the agencies to represent themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2004/5, JNCC will aim to co-ordinate a UK synthesis of current data and information on the illegal poisoning of wildlife (notably raptors), by drawing together results of work by the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW) groups and RSPB in reporting on poisoning incidents. This will undertake spatial analysis of incidents in the context of land-uses and land-cover.
<p>4. We recommend the continued development of the dissemination of information concerning legal methods of pest control, and the continued strong encouragement to game managers to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A widely acclaimed booklet on legal means of reducing predation at Pheasant release pens published by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation was launched at the 2002 Game Fair. It was financially support by SNH and JNCC, and has been widely disseminated to lowland gamekeepers as a user-friendly summary of means of reducing 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
use legal pest control measures, as well as to the public to respect these measures when encountered.	or eliminating predation risk without the need for recourse to illegal killing.	
<p>5. We recommend that the government-led Campaign against Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife be extended to address all aspects of illegal killing, not just those involving poisons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent research has indicated that second generation rodenticides are having a significant adverse impact on raptors, notably Red Kites and Barn Owls. English Nature has funded work which highlights the vulnerability of Kestrels to this threat. To raise the profile of this issue, English Nature, with RSPB, has published and widely disseminated a colour leaflet "<i>Rat poison and the threat to birds of prey</i>". CCW intend to produce a Welsh version of this leaflet jointly with the Welsh Kite Trust and RSPB Cymru. This would aim to be widely disseminated through the Welsh agriculture department. • The Rodenticides sub-group of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides has been promoting an Industry Code of Practice. This has requested tightening the warning on the labels of relevant rodenticide containers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JNCC should continue to keep a watching brief on discussions with the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and on the impacts of second generation pesticides on raptors. JNCC should seek legal clarification on the licensing issues surrounding the use of pesticides, and should investigate the need for further research on impacts of second generation pesticides, in particular, maintaining surveillance programmes (contracted to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)) on pesticide levels in raptor carcasses.
<p>6. We recommend that the government should amend the 1996 Control of Pesticides Regulations to require those who possess pesticides to be licensed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal has been rejected by the Scottish Executive. RSPB has recently issued a further consultation on this subject which English Nature fully supports. The necessary change could be implemented either through amendment of the Control of Pesticides regulation or the Wildlife & Countryside 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
	Act (Part 1 of which is currently under review by Defra).	
<p>7. We recommend enhanced enforcement of existing legislation to seek to eliminate illegal killing of birds of prey. Such enforcement would underpin efforts to encourage game managers and others to pursue only legal options of enhancing game stocks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of illegal persecution continues to occur. Restricted public access to moorlands in 2001 owing to Foot & Mouth Disease seemed to result in a significant upsurge in the raptor persecution in some areas. This seemed to be particularly the case in northern England, with breeding Hen Harriers apparently being targeted. • There has been a long-term secondment of two Police Wildlife Liaison Officers to CCW, respectively for North and South Wales. This is a very welcome development. • A Yorkshire Partnership against Wildlife Crime has recently been launched, involving farming interests, the Moorland Association and a wide range of other interests including English Nature. This has been a very valuable initiative and has potential as a model for other areas. • The Countryside and Rights of Way Act has introduced the potential for custodial sentence for some wildlife crimes and this has now occurred on several occasions. • The Scottish Parliament has taken priority action to implement the most important proposals on wildlife crime from <i>The Nature of Scotland</i>. The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, approved by the Scottish Parliament on 20 February this year, puts into effect a package of measures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ custodial sentences; ○ increased financial penalties; 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a specific power of arrest; ○ wider availability of search warrants; and ○ reform on the existing time-bar on bringing prosecutions more than six months after the commission of an offence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The draft Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill also proposes a range of further, largely technical, amendments which will assist. 	
<p>8. Continuing deaths of raptors and other non-target birds result from the abuse of crow cage traps. Such deaths are both unnecessary and are likely to reduce public sympathy for the use of this legal method of pest control. Accordingly, we recommend that the appropriate licensing authorities review the provisions of the open general licences covering crow cage traps, in order to seek to eliminate those conditions that might facilitate the abuse of this legal technique of pest control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Scottish Executive has consulted widely with a view to reviewing the licence conditions applicable to this and related licensable activities. We are unclear on the results of this review. ● The current review of Part 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act by Defra would give an opportunity for this issue to be addressed for England and Wales. 	
<p>9. We recommend a number of specific enhancements to current research and monitoring activity. These are:</p>		

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National sample surveys of Hen Harrier numbers at not more than five-year intervals until such time as the UK population is not threatened by illegal killing. • National sample surveys to be undertaken of Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Goshawk and Hobby (in priority order) to obtain better estimates of the current populations and distributions of these species. • An investigation into the causes of the current declines in peregrine numbers in parts of the Scottish Highlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national reassessment of Hen Harrier numbers is planned in 2004 with co-funding from RSPB under the SCARRABS Agreement. • The populations of Goshawk, Kestrel and Hobby are all poorly understood, and would benefit from greater priority in survey planning. There is a need for a full national survey of Goshawk in particular since numbers are currently poorly reported. The British trends of Kestrel and Buzzard are established by the Breeding Bird Survey. • The significant recovery of Buzzard populations across much of lowland Britain is a continuing success story. The next BTO Breeding Bird Atlas (2008-2011) will provide updated information on Buzzard status and distribution. • A PhD study on the reasons for these declines is being undertaken in Scotland. Initial indications suggest that declines may be related to the ingestion of pigeons that have eaten dressed seeds leading to egg-shell thinning, and thus lower productivity. 	

B. MOORLAND ISSUES

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>10. We recommend that government and its agencies should seek legal advice on the status of nests outside the breeding season, and consider whether any modification of domestic legislation is required to protect them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation is a priority issue for the statutory agencies. • There is developing consensus that the Wildlife & Countryside Act does not adequately transpose all the requirements of the EC Birds Directive regarding the legal status of traditionally used nest sites outwith the nesting season. Legal advice has been sought by SNH which supports this. Whilst there is clearly no case to justify year-round protection of the nests of <i>all</i> bird species, there does appear to be strong legal and conservation grounds to promote such protection for the nests of certain high status species, the successful breeding of which is linked to the continued existence of traditionally-used nest structures. Indeed, the destruction of these raptor nests is becoming a more prevalent means of deterring nesting. These species include Golden Eagle, Osprey and Hen Harrier. • There may be opportunities to pursue this in the context of Defra's review of Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill and there should be dialogue with Defra and the Scottish Executive respectively. 	
<p>11. We recommend that every effort be made to support moorland managers through SSSI management agreements, or agri-environment schemes (such as the Countryside Premium Scheme in Scotland). Parts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversionary feeding of raptors has previously been identified as one of several measures which can be implemented to reduce the impacts of raptors on game interests. SNH, through its Natural Care Scheme has made available £1,000 per nest for diversionary feeding at each of five SPAs classified for Hen 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>of this package might include payments to defray the costs of diversionary feeding of Hen Harriers at particular moors managed specifically for red grouse production, and identified as being subject to especially high Hen Harrier densities in a national context. Diversionary feeding should be linked to the undertaking of longer-term measures to regenerate the extent, and restore the condition, of heather moorland.</p>	<p>Harriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major diversionary feeding trial is proposed in Scotland in 2004, involving CEH, Game Conservancy Trust and SNH, and supported by the Scottish Moorland Forum. This will be undertaken in areas of high and low density Red Grouse so as to assess the impact of diversionary feeding on the Red Grouse population as a whole. 	
<p>12. We recommend the establishment of a scientific trial of the effectiveness of the current practice of diversionary feeding of Peregrines which is being undertaken by the establishment of dovecotes on or near grouse moors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been decided to defer such a trial pending the results of the major trial on Hen Harriers planned for 2004 and outlined above. 	
<p>13. We recommend the development of an application for EU LIFE funding to establish a wide-scale demonstration project illustrating the compatibility of good moorland management practices co-existing alongside viable red grouse and bird of prey populations. Langholm has been the focus of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Moorland LIFE bid has not yet been submitted, but is still proposed. In the meantime, various Hen Harrier and moorland recovery schemes have been initiated in Scotland under SNH's Natural Care Programme. • See also work reported under Recommendations 15 & 17 below. 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>these topics over recent years, and it may be appropriate to continue to build on previous work there, as well as to broaden the scope to encompass other areas.</p>		
<p>14. We recommend the establishment of incentive policies designed to encourage the restoration of heather moorland from grass-dominated moorland, specifically targeted at heather moors aside from their agricultural uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are unaware of any such current incentives in place or under development. • The Scottish Moorland Forum launched a guide to the good conservation management of moorlands at the Scottish Game Fair on 1 July this year. It summarises 14 principles of good management. 	
<p>15. We recommend that a national campaign, supported by the wide range of interested parties, would help focus attention on the desirability of enhanced moorland management. This should be linked to the specific targets of the Upland Heathland Habitat Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is underway under the aegis of the UK Upland Habitat Action Plan Steering Group. This is also an important strand of the proposed LIFE Moorland Bid proposal and relates also to Recommendations 16, 17 and 18. • A publicity leaflet is proposed on the necessary work to implement the Upland Habitat Action Plan, and achieve the targets established there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JNCC support the Steering Group
<p>18. We recommend the establishment of a UK-wide education, training and public awareness strategy related ultimately to the reversal of declines in heather moorland extent and quality. The Upland Heathland Habitat Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Upland Habitat Action Plan Steering Group should consider whether a major UK conference or other event would assist in further raising the profile of moorland conservation issues. 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>Plan lead agency should be given the task of co-ordinating this work, with the success of the strategy measured against explicit criteria. It should take account of existing and potential contributions of organisations already working in this field.</p>		
<p>16. We recommend the establishment of a register of moorland management projects or estate management demonstrating 'good practice' in the integration and sustainable management of grouse and associated wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial Register of Moorland Management Projects/ Demonstration Projects has been produced at the UK level for the UK Habitat Action Plan Steering Group. This lists projects/activities known to us, sources of funding and demonstrable outcomes. There would be benefits in launching the register as a web-based project which would allow progressive updating as new information becomes available. 	
<p>17. We recommend that the statutory conservation agencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland consider a means, within these countries, of sharing expertise and facilitating the exchange of information and good practice between those involved in the conservation and management of heather moorland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Scotland, SNH convened the Moorland Working Group to develop the dialogue and sharing of best practice between the main bodies involved in the conservation and management of moorland. Their booklet '<i>Good practice for grouse management</i>' was well received, with a range of other advisory materials subsequently published including '<i>Scotland's moorland: the nature of change</i>' (2002) and '<i>Principles of moorland management</i>' (2003). Scotland's Moorland Forum was established by Scottish SNH in March 2002. It consists of 22 member organisations and five observer organisations, all of which have signed up to a Statement of Intent setting out clear objectives and targets for 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
	<p>moorland conservation and management in Scotland. The Forum seeks a sustainable future for moorland through collaborative work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Nature does not currently propose to establish a similar forum, instead having developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Moorland Association. It will keep the possible need for such a forum (and others means of enhancing liaison with stakeholders) under review, as also will CCW. • English Nature chairs a recently formed Burning Issues Group involving moorland interest groups and regulators which aims to identify and promote best practice for moorland burning regimes, seek revision of the heather and grass burning code, and identify research needs. 	
<p>19. We recommend further research into the possible long-term declines in moorland soil fertility, and possible associated nutrient declines in food plants postulated to have resulted from burning and grazing regimes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress. JNCC should determine whether the Soils Lead Agency should review long-term declines in moorland soil fertility, or whether this recommendation be addressed centrally by Defra , the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland and the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

C. PIGEON ISSUES

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>20. We recommend that scientific studies be undertaken on the range of possible means of reducing predation on racing pigeons. Collaboration to this effect by the racing pigeon community with academic institutions and, where appropriate, internationally, would help derive effective long-term measures to reduce the scale of losses currently experienced both at lofts, and during racing or training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide ranging research programme has been initiated by SNH in Scotland with co-funding from the Scottish Homing Union and undertaken by the Central Science Laboratories. It has been undertaken in close co-ordination with racing pigeon interests in Scotland. Preliminary results have been positive and indicate that there are several viable methods of deterring predation on racing pigeons or otherwise reducing impacts. It is intended that the final report of this research be presented by the contractors at a seminar involving other interested parties in England and Wales. The apparent success of this research has considerably helped to reduce tensions on this issue in Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JNCC will assist in the dissemination of the results of the SNH-funded research to other interested parties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, possibly by providing a venue for a seminar.
<p>21. We recommend that priority attention should be given to understanding the causes of straying during racing, especially for young birds. Minimising straying is likely to be the single, most effective way of enhancing pigeon return rates. We have made a number of suggestions that might usefully be followed up (although not all of these are likely to be universally applicable, and an integration of measures will be necessary).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNH has supported the development of a major Heritage Lottery Fund application to develop the capacity of racing pigeon organisations in Scotland. This has also been helpful to relationships. 	

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>22. We recommend that consideration be given to delaying the start of the 'old bird' racing season in order to avoid the current coincidence with the start of the Peregrine's breeding season.</p>		
<p>23. We recommend that consideration be given to re-organising race routes, especially for young bird racing, in an attempt to establish 'flight corridors' and reduce the current complexity of north/south and east/west 'crossovers'.</p>		

D. BIRDS OF PREY IN THE LOWLANDS

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>24. We recommend that the results of current research into predation impacts at lowland pheasant release pens, and derived information on the effectiveness of different deterrents to predation, be widely disseminated throughout the lowland game shooting community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Recommendation 4 above. • Discussions should be undertaken with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) and the Game Conservancy Trust as to the potential for more training events. • In this context, we note the conservation priority given to Goshawks (see Recommendation 9 above), since this is a species frequently targeted by illegal persecution in the lowlands. 	

E. RAPTORS AND SONGBIRDS

UK Raptor Working Group recommendations	Update on Country Agencies' responses	Update on JNCC actions
<p>25. We recommend the maintenance of monitoring programmes for all the species concerned (principally the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the negotiations of a new Partnership Agreement with BTO, a BBS stakeholder workshop was held in January 2003, including all country agencies, Defra and others. The conclusions of that workshop informed discussions with BTO and RSPB as to proposals for a new BBS Agreement currently under development (and due to come to the Committee in December 2003).