

Who to Contact

Grampian Police: 0845 600 5700
Tayside Police: 0300 111 2222
RSPB Scotland: 0131 311 6500

Northern Constabulary: 0845 603 3388
Crimestoppers: (anonymous) 0800 555 111
SSPCA: 03000 999 999

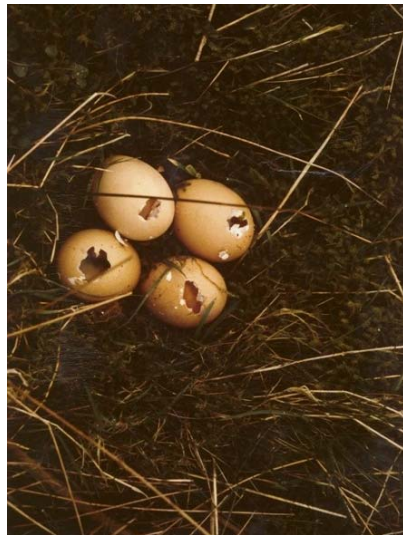
RSPB has a down-loadable incident report form at:

www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/wildbirdslaw/report.asp

Other sources of information:

SASA: www.sasa.gov.uk/pesticide_wildlife/wiis/index.cfm

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk/images/illegalkilling2008_tcm9-225981.pdf



Baited hens eggs.



Poisoned hare as bait.

This leaflet has been prepared by *The Cairngorms Campaign*

VISION OF THE CAIRNGORMS CAMPAIGN

The Cairngorms, with their wild land, wildlife, landscape and other natural resources, treasured and nurtured by local, national and international communities maintained and enhanced to their full value for wildlife and people.

If you would like to help further the work of *The Cairngorms Campaign*, please contact:

The Cairngorms Campaign, PO Box 10037, Alford, AB33 8WZ

or www.cairngormscampaign.org.uk
e-mail: email@ Cairngormscampaign.org.uk



Help Prevent the Poisoning of Wildlife

Over the last 10 years tests at government laboratories confirmed almost 300 instances of illegal poisoning of raptors (birds of prey), a small fraction of all those poisoned as few cases are detected and prosecution of offenders is difficult.



A poisoned golden eagle

There is little doubt raptors are the principal target of the poisoners, but the indiscriminate use of poison inevitably causes the death of other birds and animals. Poisoning is a furtive business kept hidden from public gaze and most of these instances were chanced on by people whose hobbies and interests took them to the countryside.

Be an Extra Pair of Eyes

You can help prevent illegal poisoning of protected species and domestic animals. Hill-goers of all kinds can act as an extra pair of eyes. The *Cairngorms Campaign* has produced this leaflet to help hill-goers identify and report instances.

Who is poisoning?

Evidence is available from:

- Prosecutions – nearly all of gamekeepers.
- the distribution of poisoned carcasses.
- known hunting territories that should but do not contain golden eagles and other raptors.

All these indicate that gamekeepers on “sporting” estates are by far the most frequent offenders, especially on estates containing grouse moors.

Why poison?

Reduction of raptors, by whatever means, is based on the misconception that fewer raptors means more game birds, especially red grouse.

" A great deal of this killing is not only illegal but also pointless. To assume that all predators are a problem is absurd. The old system of removal of any predatory bird or animal on or near the shooting ground may not only not lead to an increase in game, it may also cause other unwanted ecological damage. The bottom line is that society as a whole, through its laws has placed these predators under full protection and game shooting must adapt to this or face the consequences."

Said David Dick, former Senior Investigation Officer, RSPB Scotland

What to look out for

- The victims: dead birds of prey, crows, foxes, etc.; these may be lying close to each other or to the bait. Not all die immediately and may be further from the bait.
- The bait: dead animals laid out prominently.

Tips:

- Often the bait is surrounded by dead insects – the poison is indiscriminate!
- Animal or bird baits may be slit open and the granules of poison may be apparent.
- There may be collateral victims close to the bait.
- The bait is likely to be away from frequented areas and paths, often near boundaries of estates, and where raptors and animals will readily find it – e.g. open ground, edge of forest, on top of a tree stump or rock .

What not to do

DO NOT touch or disturb the carcass in any way. Not least this is because some poisons used are so toxic, getting them on your skin could be dangerous. At least one is absorbed directly through the skin.

DO NOT disturb anything as it is potentially a crime scene.

DO NOT tell people locally about what you have found or seek local assistance - you do not know who is related to who, friendly to who, or works on the estate where you found the carcass.

DO NOT delay in reporting your find to the appropriate authority.

What to do

- Photograph the carcass; one close-up to establish identity and to allow the authorities to estimate whether it is a case of poisoning; and a general shot to establish the location (include an identifiable landmark).
- Note the location by GPS or map reference.
- If possible, cover the carcass in some way with vegetation or a plastic bag; this will keep it untouched by other animals.
- Contact one or more of the following: the Police Wildlife Officer, RSPB or Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme.
- Keep the matter confidential.
- If not sure, still report the matter. Authorities prefer false alarms to missed opportunities