

Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2015 Annual Report



**Greener
Scotland**
Scottish
Government

A report published by the Scottish Ministers, on wildlife crime in Scotland.

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of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Scottish Government Environment and Forestry Directorate
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With thanks for contributions, comments and data provided by partners in the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland.

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Ministerial Foreword



This fourth Scottish Government annual report on wildlife crime continues to shine a spotlight on an area of crime that people in Scotland want to see an end to.

In my previous role as Minister for Environment we laid the groundwork for this annual report by making it a statutory requirement. I return to the now expanded portfolio 5 years later as Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and as wildlife crimes remain in the headlines, so this report increases in importance.

The Scottish Government has worked hard with key partners including Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and other agencies to ensure that the annual report continues to improve and provide a clearer picture. I am pleased that we have continued to listen and respond to feedback to make things better.

This report covers the calendar year 2015, using data for the 2014-15 financial year. As we should expect, there are fluctuations in the figures compared to last year, however we should all hope to achieve decreases over longer periods of time.

We can see that in the period 2014-15 there has been an increase of 29 offences or 11% in the overall crime figures, however over a 5 year period there is an overall decrease of 71 offences or 20% which is to be welcomed. Fish poaching remains our highest volume offence, increasing from last year with 11 offences (12%) with an overall increase of 16 offences (19%) over the 5 year period.

Our most high profile wildlife crime is of course raptor persecution. Offences against wild birds were the second highest volume offence, decreasing from last year by 4 offences or 8% and showing an overall decrease of 10 offences (17%) over the 5 year period. I welcome these reductions in offences, however I do so with caution, knowing that I have instructed a review into missing satellite tagged birds of prey which will report next year.

In her foreword last year, my predecessor accepted that initiatives and work that we carry out does not offer immediate results or improvements in crime figures. I accept and understand those frustrations however we are now seeing some of that work coming to fruition. I have also committed to further work in the Programme for Government which is detailed in this report.

Let me say that the dedication of those who seek to protect and conserve our wildlife is truly valued. Conversely, we will continue to isolate and punish those that act with blatant disregard to the laws that protect Scotland's natural heritage.

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

1. Introduction

Legislative requirement of annual report

This report is a requirement of Section 20 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, which inserted a new Section 26B into the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The section prescribes that Ministers must lay a report following the end of every calendar year on offences which relate to wildlife, to include information on incidence and prosecutions during the year to which the report relates, and on research and advice relevant to those offences.

Wildlife crime

The report uses the following definition of wildlife crime, as agreed by the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland in 2010.

“Wildlife crime is any unlawful act or omission, which affects any wild creature, plant or habitat, in Scotland.”

A summary of the legislation which contains offences highlighted in this report is available in [Appendix 1](#).

Improvements to report

As part of an ongoing process to improve the clarity of the report and availability of useful data, the following changes have been made:

- The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) contribution in Section 2.2 has been redesigned to make it more consistent with the crime groupings used in official recorded crime and prosecution statistics. Data for previous years has also been included for the first time. Additional detailed breakdowns of this COPFS data is provided in [Appendix 3A](#).
- New disaggregated wildlife offence data, covering 2013-14 and 2014-15, has been provided by Police Scotland. This data has been used to provide breakdowns not currently possible using the official crime statistics. Summaries of recorded offences by wildlife crime priority area are now included in Chapter 4.

Outline of report

The report is divided into two main parts:

- Chapters 2-4 contain evidence on the level and nature of wildlife crime and prosecutions, supported by additional detail where it is available and relevant. This information covers the financial year 2014-15, the latest period for which a complete set of data is available.
- Chapters 5-7 include information on activities and projects related to wildlife crime policy and enforcement throughout 2015 and beyond.

Data: What evidence do we have for levels of wildlife crime and prosecutions?

The following section incorporates data from a number of sources, building the most accurate picture we can of the levels of wildlife crime and prosecutions in Scotland. The table below presents a summary of the data sources included in this report.

Summary of Data Sources used for Wildlife Crime

Organisation/ data source	Information used in this report
Recorded Crime statistics: Scottish Government statistical output derived from Police Scotland's recorded crime database	Numbers of crimes recorded
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) system	Number of cases reported to COPFS and associated case outcomes
Criminal Proceedings Statistics, Scottish Government	Number of people proceeded against and those with a conviction Types of punishment issued in courts
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)	Wildlife DNA forensic cases Pesticide abuse incidents including bird of prey poisoning data
Scotland's Rural College	Wildlife cases examined by SAC Consulting Veterinary Services which were suspected to have been the result of criminal activity
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Freshwater pearl mussels incidents General license restrictions
Police Scotland	Disaggregated recorded crime data by species, type of wildlife crime Firearms restrictions
National Wildlife Crime Unit	Wildlife crime intelligence logs summary
Scottish Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)	Summary of SSPCA investigations

2. Headline trends

This chapter outlines the main trends in wildlife crime recorded by the police, reports of those charged by the police and processed by COPFS and levels of people proceeded against in court.

These sources are able to demonstrate trends in wildlife crime but much of the recording is not designed to pick out species specific information. Where possible, further detail is provided in Chapters 3 and 4.

2.1 Recorded Crime

[Table 1](#) provides a summary of the different types of wildlife crime recorded by the police over the five year period to 2014-15. These recorded crime statistics are Scottish Government statistical output derived from Police Scotland's recorded crime database.

In 2014-15 there were 284 crimes recorded by the police relating to wildlife. Recorded crimes relating to fish poaching offences accounted for around 36 per cent of the total in 2014-15 (101 crimes), followed by offences relating to birds (49 crimes).

The 284 recorded wildlife crimes represents a small increase of around 11 per cent in comparison with 2013-14 (255 recorded crimes). The main increases were recorded in the categories of cruelty to wild animals (73% increase) and other wildlife offences (52% increase).

Table 1: Wildlife Crime Recorded by Police Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Offences relating to:	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Badgers	20	11	1	7	5
Birds	59	55	64	53	49
Cruelty to wild animals	40	26	27	22	38
Deer	33	47	33	20	24
Hunting with dogs	31	31	32	29	20
Poaching and game laws	16	15	1	4	2
Fish poaching	85	104	135	90	101
Conservation (protected sites)	2	1	0	1	1
Other wildlife offences	69	17	26	29	44
Totals	355	307	319	255	284

Source: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2014-15

[Table 2](#) presents the distribution of the types of wildlife crime between different Police Scotland divisions in 2014-15.

Table 2: Wildlife Crime Recorded, by Police Scotland Division, 2014-15

Offences relating to:	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire & Moray	Argyll & West Dunbartonshire	Ayrshire	Dumfries & Galloway	Edinburgh	Fife	Forth Valley	Greater Glasgow	Highland & Islands	Lanarkshire	Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	Tayside	The Lothians & Scottish Borders	TOTAL
Badgers	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Birds	2	10	1	1	5	0	5	9	0	12	0	0	2	2	49
Cruelty to wild animals	0	4	12	2	1	0	1	4	0	5	3	0	2	4	38
Deer	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	5	0	0	5	24
Hunting with dogs	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	20
Poaching and game laws	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fish poaching	1	16	3	1	3	2	4	21	1	31	0	1	1	16	101
Conservation (protected sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other wildlife offences	1	2	2	0	4	0	12	6	0	7	0	0	10	0	44
Totals	4	45	19	4	14	2	28	43	3	61	8	1	20	32	284

Source: Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2014-15

The highest number of wildlife crime offences were recorded in the Highlands & Islands region (61), followed by Aberdeenshire & Moray (45) and Forth Valley (43). Overall the greatest volume of poaching offenses were in relation to birds (49) and fish (101).

2.2 Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Statistics



**CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE**

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service's (COPFS) dedicated Wildlife and Environmental Crime Unit (WECU) has been in operation since 15 August 2011 and investigates and manages the prosecution of all cases involving crimes against wildlife.

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

Case work of the Wildlife & Environmental Crime Unit in 2014-15

[Table 3](#) shows the breakdown of wildlife cases received by COPFS in each of the financial years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, following the standard categories used elsewhere in this report. Notes and Definitions on the COPFS data are available in Appendix 3.

Table 3: Wildlife Cases received by COPFS in 2012-13 to 2014-15

Offences relating to:	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Badgers	3 (3)		4 (1)
Birds	20 (3)	21 (6)	17 (2)
Cruelty to wild animals	7 (4)	10 (3)	11 (4)
Deer	8	4	5
Fish poaching	55 (3)	60 (2)	38
Hunting with dogs	9	13 (1)	6
Other wildlife offences	23 (2)	17 (1)	17
Other conservation offences	1		
Total	126 (15)	125 (13)	98 (7)

Source: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

The figures in brackets in Table 3 indicate the number of reports submitted by a specialist reporting agency, in the case of fish poaching offences, by the River Tweed Commissioners¹ and in the remaining categories, by the Scottish SSPCA.

The outcomes of these cases are shown in [Table 4](#) below.

Table 4: Outcomes of all wildlife cases reported to COPFS in 2012-13 to 2014-15

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
Under investigation		1	1
No action	35 (4)	29 (2)	23 (1)
Alternative to prosecution	30 (2)	30 (4)	34
Prosecuted	61 (9)	65 (7)	40 ² (6)
of which convicted	44 (5)	47 (4)	28 (4)
Total number of reports received	126 (15)	125 (13)	98 (7)

Source: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

The following information relates to cases reported in 2014-15.

Prosecution in court was undertaken in 40 cases (41% of cases received). Of these:

- One case remains live.
- 28 cases resulted in a conviction (70% of cases prosecuted).

¹ The River Tweed Commission (formerly the River Tweed Commissioners charged under the Tweed Fisheries Acts of 1857, 1859 and 1969) is charged under The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 to do such acts, execute such works and incur such expenses as appear to it to be expedient for the protection and improvement salmon and freshwater fisheries, and the preservation, increase and stocking of those fisheries in the River Tweed and its tributaries, and in particular with the regulation of fisheries, the removal of nuisances and obstructions and the prevention of illegal fishing. The area of jurisdiction extends five miles out to sea and includes the coastline between Cockburnspath and Holy Island. Powers are granted to the Commission to help fulfill these duties.

² One prosecution remains live.

- Proceedings were discontinued by the prosecutor in 5 cases (12% of cases prosecuted) where for example, further investigation disclosed that no crime was committed or that there was insufficient evidence. 6 cases resulted in an acquittal of all charges (15% of cases prosecuted)
- 34 cases were dealt with by an alternative to prosecution (35% of cases received.) Warning letters were issued in 10 of these cases (10% of cases received) and fiscal fines were issued in a further 21 cases (21% of cases received).
- 2 cases were referred to the Reporter to the Childrens" Panel and one was dealt with by way of diversion from prosecution. Diversion from prosecution may be appropriate for less serious offences where it may prevent or deter further offending. It involves the referral of an accused person to the supervision of a social worker, psychiatrist, psychologist or mediator for the purposes of support, treatment or other action as an alternative to prosecution.

No action was taken in 23 cases (23% of cases received). In 22 cases, this was for legal reasons and in 1 case was in the exercise of the prosecutor's discretion. The legal reasons included:

- circumstances that did not constitute a crime
- instances where the person responsible was not identified
- instances where there was insufficient evidence to permit proceedings
- instances where proceedings were time-barred at the time of submission of the report or the delay in reporting was such that proceedings were no longer justified in the particular circumstances.

Further information about cases received in 2014-15 is as follows:

- A total of 21 reports related to birds. 9 of these related to offences involving birds of prey, 2 being prosecutions for vicarious liability offences.
- A total of 6 reports related to circumstances in which badgers were affected. Further information is provided in the supplementary note to [Appendix 3A](#).
- 7 reports related to the use of traps.
- 7 reports related to the use of snares.
- 14 cases involved dogs.
- All 6 cases in the "Hunting with dogs" category related to allegations of hare coursing. A case reported in 2014-15 in which the accused released a fox to dogs was reported and prosecuted under animal welfare legislation.
- 14 cases involved firearms. 5 of these were air rifles, in each case used to shoot gulls.
- 15 cases involved activity targeting hares or rabbits.
- "Other wildlife offences" included the possession of prohibited pesticides (2 cases), vicarious liability (2 cases), COTES offences (1 case) and offences against bats (1 case).

Further details of case outcomes in the individual categories are provided in [Appendix 3A](#).

Notable Cases

The first case under the vicarious liability provisions in section 18A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was reported in 2013 and was concluded in December 2014 when the landowner, Ninian Stewart, was convicted and fined £675 after his gamekeeper Peter Bell poisoned a buzzard.

Two reports of vicarious liability offences were submitted in the financial year 2014-15. One prosecution is ongoing. In the other, Graham Christie, a self-employed game farmer, was fined a total of £3,200 in December 2015 after admitting his liability for the trapping and injuring of a buzzard in March 2013 using an illegal gin trap, by James O'Reilly, a gamekeeper employed by him.

In August 2015, following a proof in mitigation, the salmon netting company Usan Salmon Fisheries Limited was fined a total of £7,000 after pleading guilty to charges of failing to observe the weekly close time in 2013 and 2014.

In January 2015, Peter Lockhart was fined £2,000 and disqualified from owning or keeping animals for five years for offences under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 committed at Fife Animal Park in 2013 and 2014.

2.3 Criminal Proceedings statistics

Following marking by COPFS, cases may be dealt with by the courts. [Table 4](#) shows the number of people proceeded against in Scottish courts and the relevant conviction rates for wildlife offences between 2010-11 and 2014-15. Please note that this table is a summary and that a breakdown of proceedings for specific offences is provided at [Appendix 4](#).

Please note that Criminal Proceedings statistics are not directly comparable with the recorded crime or COPFS figures presented above for a number of reasons. Please see [Section 2.4](#) for further explanation.

There were 51 people proceeded against for wildlife related offences in 2014-15, a 36 per cent decrease from 2013-14 (80 people). The largest decrease was in proceedings relating to fish poaching offences, however this remains the most common type of wildlife offence seen in the courts.

Table 5: People proceeded against in Scottish Courts for Wildlife Crimes*, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Offences relating to:	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total proceedings over 5 year period	Overall conviction rate
Badgers	3	2	-	-	2	7	86%
Birds	6	15	19	10	8	58	78%
Cruelty to wild animals	2	4	9	4	3	22	73%
Deer	3	8	3	5	2	21	67%
Hunting with dogs	9	5	11	9	3	37	46%
Poaching and game laws	8	8	1	-	-	17	59%
Fish poaching	22	18	23	43	19	125	75%
Conservation (protected sites)	-	1	-	-	-	1	100%
Other wildlife offences	-	10	11	9	14	44	75%
Total proceeded against	53	71	77	80	51	332	71%
Total guilty	37	48	56	60	35		
% guilty	70%	68%	73%	75%	69%		
<i>Total number of offences</i>	49	70	75	100	66		

Source: Criminal Proceedings Statistics

* Where main charge

Table 4 also shows there were small variations in the overall conviction rate over the last five years, ranging from between 68 per cent to 75 per cent of those proceeded against found guilty. Conviction rates by wildlife crime category have been presented as a five year average due to the small numbers of proceedings for some categories. This shows that conviction rates, on average over the last five years, have been higher for offences relating to badgers and birds while offences involving hunting with dogs have had the lowest conviction rate.

Although a single court proceeding can involve a number of different offences, it should be noted that Criminal Proceedings statistics only report on the main charge. For example, if a shotgun offence receives a higher penalty than a wildlife offence in the same proceeding, the shotgun offence would be counted, not the wildlife offence. To illustrate this, the total number of individual wildlife offences proceedings against in each year are presented at the bottom of [Table 4](#). In 2014-15 there were 66 offences for wildlife crime that were brought to court in comparison to the 51 people proceeded against.

[Tables 5](#) and [6](#) present information on penalties issued for wildlife crime convictions and have been presented as aggregate figures due to the small numbers of proceedings for some crime categories in individual years. Please note that a more detailed breakdown is available at [Appendix 4](#).

[Table 5](#) shows that the most common punishment for a wildlife crime conviction is a monetary fine, with 80 per cent of convictions receiving this type of penalty in 2014-15 up from 2013-14, however this pattern has been broadly similar since 2010-11.

Table 6: People with a charge* proved for Wildlife Crimes in Scottish Courts, by main penalty, 2009-10 to 2013-14

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
People proceeded against	53	71	77	80	51
People with a charge proved	37	48	56	60	35
<i>Of which received</i>					
Custody	-	1	1	1	1
Community Sentence	-	7	8	4	2
Monetary	33	37	33	43	28
Other	4	3	14	12	4

Source: Criminal Proceedings Statistics

* Where main charge

In [Table 6](#) aggregate totals for 2010-11 to 2014-15 show that monetary punishments are mostly likely to be given for all crime types, especially for fish poaching offences (81% for this group). The crime group where convictions are most likely to result in a community sentence are offences relating to badgers (33% of convictions). Only 2 per cent of wildlife crime convictions resulted in a custodial sentence.

Average fines and custodial sentences are also presented in [Table 6](#). It is not possible to establish the average number of Community Payback Order (CPO) hours as this information is not held in the Criminal Proceedings database nor is it available for other types of crime.

Table 7: People with a charge* proved for Wildlife Crimes in Scottish Courts, by main penalty and wildlife crime

Offences relating to:	2010-11 to 2014-15 totals					Average	
	Total with a charge proved	Custody	Community Sentence	Monetary	Other	Custodial sentence length (days)	Monetary fine (£)
Badgers	6	-	2	4	-	-	967
Birds	45	3	6	30	6	132	598
Cruelty to wild animals	16	-	2	12	2	-	390
Deer	14	-	3	10	1	-	535
Hunting with dogs	17	1	2	11	3	182	416
Poaching and game laws	10	-	-	6	4	-	260
Fish poaching	94	-	2	76	16	-	253
Conservation (protected sites)	1	-	-	1	-	-	740
Other wildlife offences	33	-	4	24	5	-	515
Totals	236	4	21	174	37	144	411

Source: Criminal Proceedings Statistics

* Where main charge

Some additional or alternative penalties are described in sections [3.3](#) and [3.4](#).

2.4 Comparing Data Sources

Although the justice IT systems have common standards in terms of classifying crimes and penalties there are issues with comparing the different sets of statistics (Tables 1 to 6) so care should be taken when interpreting the report. The following outline the main differences:

1. Prosecutions may not happen in the same year as a crime was recorded. Timing is also an issue when comparing COPFS figures (which include on-going cases) and criminal proceedings statistics (which represent only closed cases).
2. In the recorded crime statistics a single crime or offence recorded by the police may have more than one perpetrator. By comparison the court statistics measure individuals who are proceeded against, which may be for more than one crime. As outlined above only the main charge in a proceeding is presented for criminal proceeding statistics.
3. There is the possibility that the crime or offence recorded by the police may be altered e.g. COPFS may alter the charges during their marking process, making it hard to track crimes through the justice system.
4. Additionally, crimes and offences alleged to have been committed by children less than 16 years old are not included in the criminal proceedings statistics as these are representative of activity in the adult courts. Juveniles are generally dealt with through the children's hearings system.

Limitations of using these data sources to measure wildlife crime

Previous reports have laid out the limitations of the data included in the report and the difficulties which occur when trying to compare the data. Efforts have been made and recommendations have been taken on board, to make improvements as the annual report has been developed, improved and refined.

Further comment on recommendations made by the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

3. Additional Data Sources

[Chapters 3](#) and [4](#) include commentary and data provided by other bodies involved in the investigation of wildlife crime in Scotland including government departments, agencies and NGOs. The data provides additional detail on incidents or investigative work to complement the data presented in [Chapter 2](#) and to help fill in gaps where disaggregation of that data is not possible.

Some of these data sources include incidents that stakeholders have been notified of or detected using their specific expertise. It is possible that, if reported to the police, some of these incidents would not have been recorded as a crime, or would have been recorded as environmental offences or firearms/shotgun offences depending on the nature of the crime.

3.1 Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)



Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) is a Scottish Government department based in Edinburgh, which as part of its remit, provides several services for wildlife crime investigation.

Wildlife DNA Forensic Unit

The Wildlife DNA Forensic Unit at SASA provides analysis of non-human DNA evidence recovered by wildlife crime investigations. [Table 7](#) provides a summary of the range of Scottish casework received in the financial years 2013-14 to 2014-15, divided into the UK wildlife crime priorities.

Table 8: Wildlife DNA Forensic unit cases from Scotland, 2013-14 to 2014-15

Category	Scottish cases	
	2013-14	2014-15
Badger persecution	4	1
Bat persecution	0	0
CITES	1	0
Freshwater pearl mussels	0	0
Poaching and coursing	6	1
Raptor persecution	4	10
Other wildlife crime	2	0
Other (e.g. animal cruelty)	1	2
Total	18	14

Source: SASA

The 2014-15 casework included the identification of bait species from several raptor poisoning investigations and the identification of buzzard feathers on a rock used in a raptor crime. DNA evidence produced from all of these cases has provided investigative leads, and can play a crucial role in advancing an investigation towards prosecution.

Pesticides Branch

The Pesticides Branch at SASA investigates suspected animal poisoning incidents, as part of the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme. [Table 8](#) provides details of suspected pesticide incidents investigated in Scotland (2010-11 to 2014-15) and summarises those incidents, categorised as abuse, that are considered to be wildlife crimes because of the species or pesticide involved. Annually, the branch investigates around 170-230 incidents. The incidence of confirmed pesticide abuse has declined substantially from 34 per year in 2010-11 to 9 in 2014-15.

[Table 8](#) also includes the numbers of abuse incidents involving suspicious baits or other substances, even if no creature was actually poisoned. It is not possible to identify the target species. The figures show that where victim species are identified, the most frequently recorded incidents are those involving birds of prey, with 46 incidents making up more than half (55%) of abuse incidents over the 5 year period. Bird of prey poisoning incidents are covered further in the [Raptor Persecution](#) section of this report.

While the poisoning of a companion animal (pet) is not a wildlife crime, these incidents are included here as the companion animal may have been the accidental victim of an illegal poison intended to target wildlife, while wildlife could also be put at risk by poisons placed to target pets.

Table 9: Pesticide incidents in Scotland 2010-11 to 2014-15

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of incidents investigated during financial year *	203	234	172	194	192
Number of incidents attributed to pesticides	49	20	22	18	16
Category - Abuse	34	14	14	13	9
% abuse	17	6	8	7	5
No. of abuse incidents involving birds of prey	24	6	4	6	6
No. of abuse incidents involving other birds **	1	2	1	2	0
No. of abuse incidents involving suspicious baits/substances	8	2	5	4	1
No. of abuse incidents involving companion animals	0	4	4	1	2
No. of abuse incidents involving wild mammals	1	0	0	0	0

Source: SASA

- * Excludes honeybees and incidents where no analyses were undertaken
- ** No birds of prey associated with these incidents

Abuse: An investigation into the circumstances of the case concluded that the pesticide(s) involved had been used in breach of their authorisation conditions and that this has been done with the deliberate intent of harming or attempting to harm wildlife or other animals. Where an animal is involved the cause of death has been established as pesticide poisoning.

3.2 SAC Consulting Veterinary Services



SAC Consulting: Veterinary Services (SAC C VS) is a division of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). While not a government agency, the work of their Veterinary Services team includes post mortem examinations on wild birds (under the Wild Bird Disease Surveillance budget) and on wild mammals (under the Animal Welfare budget). These budgets are funded by Advisory Activity grants-in-aid from the Scottish Government.

Carcase submissions for this wildlife crime summary come, in the main, from Police Scotland. Other substantial contributions come from the SSPCA and RSPB. Small numbers of carcasses come from other sources, such as Scottish Natural Heritage, other conservation or wildlife charities, or members of the public. Where the presence of wildlife crime is suspected following post mortem examination in cases submitted by non-law-enforcement agencies, the police are notified of the outcome to allow investigation to proceed.

In addition to wildlife crime investigation, wild bird carcase submissions in Scotland are used for disease surveillance, notably exotic zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza or West Nile virus. The recent outbreaks of avian influenza in commercial units are an illustration of the need for surveillance for diseases of concern which may be carried by wild birds, particularly given the very long distances involved in migration patterns in some species.

In 2014-15, a total of 158 cases were submitted, of which 41 cases involved mammals and 117 involved birds. These are shown in [Table 9](#) below.

As can be seen from the data in [Table 9](#), the percentage of wild bird submissions suspected to be crime related following post-mortem examination is lower than the comparable percentage of mammal cases. There are several factors which may contribute to this difference. Firstly, buzzards tend to predominate the avian submissions by police. These birds are very numerous; they are large birds of prey, so their carcasses are noticeable and survive well for some time after death; and they are also a species known to be persecuted, all of which may lead to a high rate of report for this particular species by members of the public.

Table 10: Wildlife cases examined by SAC Consulting Veterinary Services under advisory activity funding, 2010-11 to 2014-15

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total wildlife cases examined as possible wildlife crimes	153	163	137	199	158
Total mammal cases	39	41	48	50	41
Total mammals identified by post mortem as crime related	22	26	22	25	26
% of mammal cases identified by post mortem as crime related	56%	63%	46%	50%	63%
Total bird cases	114	122	89	149	117
Total bird cases identified by post mortem as crime related	26	25	16	21	30
% of bird cases identified by post mortem as crime related	23%	21%	18%	14%	26%

Source: SAC Consulting Veterinary Services

Secondly, the potential for a wild bird carcass to be submitted in a condition of advanced degradation (such that no diagnosis can be reached) can be higher than that of mammals – the presence of feathers over the carcass, which can survive for long periods in apparently good condition after death, can give the superficial appearance of a fairly intact and potentially usable carcass even where there is little to no soft tissue left within. This can reduce the number of avian submissions in which a positive suspicion of crime can be identified.

The increase in cases submitted as potential wildlife crimes over the past few years may be a reflection of increased public awareness of issues surrounding wildlife crime. The reporting of high profile wildlife crime cases in the media may be a contributor, with consequent recognition by members of the public of the need to report incidents and animals found in suspicious circumstances to the police.

Wild mammalian work in the year 2014-2015 has covered a wide range of species including hedgehogs, squirrels, hares, otters, badgers, foxes, and deer. With regard to the causes of death or injury, snaring/trapping, dog attack (which may include badger baiting, hare coursing, hunting deer with dogs, or unintended loss of control of a pet around wildlife), shooting and suspected deliberate poisoning were all seen.

The avian cases have covered a range of species, though raptors always tend to predominate in cases submitted as suspected wildlife crimes. Causes of death or injury included shooting, poisoning, trapping, and dog attack.

In cases where the cause of death was recorded as “shooting”, a mixture of rifle, shotgun and air rifle injuries were represented. Poisoning abuse incidents are confirmed by testing at SASA and so the same cases referred to here also appear in [Table 8](#).

3.3 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – General Licence Restrictions



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

As part of a package of anti-wildlife crime measures announced by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, SNH announced in 2014 that they would prevent the use of general licences to trap or shoot wild birds on land where there is evidence of wildlife crime against birds. Police Scotland will share information with SNH where it may

prove to be of assistance in deciding on the use of these restrictions. The measures were back-dated to 1 January 2014, allowing action to be taken where there is evidence of relevant offences from that date onwards.

While no general licence restrictions were issued by SNH during the data period covered by this report, the first restrictions were issued in late 2015, as follows:

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) published their framework for implementing restrictions on the use of General Licences in October 2014, which was part of a package of measures aimed at tackling raptor persecution. The rationale behind the restriction process was that the light-touch approach to regulation offered by General Licences (where there is no application process, and no significant registration or reporting requirements) would not be appropriate where there has been a loss of confidence. This confidence is lost in situations where there has been evidence to show that crimes against wild birds have taken place.

SNH meet with Police Scotland and the National Wildlife Crime Unit every 3 months to review new information on bird crimes in Scotland and to identify any possible cases for future restrictions. Possible cases are reviewed against the criteria set out in the framework document and must be based upon clear evidence of crimes being committed.

Two General Licence restrictions were imposed in November 2015 following evidence being received from Police Scotland that crimes against wild birds had been committed in areas of land in the Scottish Borders and in Stirlingshire. In both cases no prosecutions were brought. These restrictions were imposed out with the timescale for this report and will be covered more fully in the 2016 Annual Report. It is however worth noting that that permission to undertake a Judicial Review of the restriction in the Scottish Borders has been granted by the courts, with this expected to be heard early 2017.

3.4 Police Scotland – Firearms Licensing

If Police Scotland are made aware of circumstances that affect a person's suitability to hold a shotgun licence or a firearms certificate, they may revoke them – or refuse an application for a new one. Wildlife crime convictions can form part of that consideration.

[Table 10](#) summarises licensing decisions taken as a result of wildlife crime offences between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2015.

Table 11: Firearm licensing decisions due to wildlife crime, 2013-14 to 2014-15

Year	Licence/Certificate Type	Refused/Revoked	Type of Offence	Legislation
2013-14	Firearms and Shotgun	Revoked	Poaching	Deer (Scotland) Act 1996
2013-14	Firearms	Refused	Poaching	Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003
2014-15	None			

Source: Police Scotland

Additional data will be added each year, until it is possible to include a rolling five-year summary as with other data in this report.

3.5 Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)



The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) and their Special Investigations Unit (SIU) are able to lead or support certain wildlife crime investigations in Scotland. Powers are granted to suitably trained staff by Scottish Ministers under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

SSPCA inspectors deal with routine domestic and wildlife welfare cases, however the SIU has a slightly different remit dealing with cases which are linked to illegal activities often involving serious and organised crime groups. The SIU deals with both wildlife incidents and incidents involving domestic animals such as dogfighting and the puppy trade. Some of the SIU's work involves incidents where there is both a domestic animal and wildlife element such as badger baiting. The SIU consists of 5 inspectors and 1 intelligence manager.

The SIU receives information (and complaints) from two main sources – the SSPCA animal helpline will alert the SIU to any information that may be of interest, and some information is fed directly to the unit from intelligence sources and other agencies. The SIU estimate that between April 2014 and March 2015 they received:

- 78 pieces of information for consideration from the SSPCA helpline
- 260 pieces of information from other sources. Upon investigation, some pieces of information may relate to incidents that may not in fact turn out to be the result of crime, may not actually involve wildlife, or are duplicate pieces of information relating to the same incident.

[Table 11](#) provides a further breakdown of incidents where the SIU identified a crime had taken place, including those reported to COPFS, listed under the six PAW Scotland priority areas. This table will be added to, year on year, until it is possible to show a rolling five year picture as with other data sources in the report. These incidents were for cases investigated solely by the SIU.

Table 12: Wildlife incidents identified by SIU as crimes from April 2014 to March 2015*

Type of wildlife crime	Pieces of information identified as crime	Reported to COPFS
Badger persecution	18	1
Illegal trade (CITES)	3	0
Raptor Persecution	15	1
Bat Persecution	2	0
Poaching and coursing	26	0
Freshwater pearl mussels	0	0
Other	28	4
TOTAL	92	6

Source: Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The incidents in [Table 11](#) also included:

- 52 relating to trapping or snaring offences
- 0 relating to fox hunting offences (legal hunts i.e. fox hunting as opposed to hunting foxes)

The SIU report cases directly to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). As a result, any crimes or suspected crimes investigated solely by the SSPCA will not appear in the police recorded crime statistics shown in [Table 1](#) of this report. If reported for prosecution however, they will however be included in the COPFS figures and those cases will have been given a Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) number.

Not all incidents identified as crimes will provide sufficient evidence for a prosecution to be progressed to COPFS. [Table 12](#) below shows a five year summary of wildlife-related investigations led by the SIU, including those reported to COPFS.

[Table 12](#) also shows the numbers of investigations where the SIU supported investigations led by Police Scotland. A new database was launched in December 2014 allowing more accurate collation data from that point onwards.

Table 13: Wildlife crime investigations dealt with by SIU, 2010-11 to 2014-15

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Incidents investigated solely by SIU	53	51	54	69	92
Number of cases reported to COPFS	12	6	8	10	6
% reported to COPFS	23%	11%	15%	14%	7%
Police Scotland-led investigations assisted by SIU	55	60	65	70	49
Total	108	111	119	139	141

Source: Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

3.6 National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)

The National Wildlife Crime Unit has a dedicated intelligence function. In the 2014-15 year, the following bespoke intelligence analysis was provided for Scotland:



uk | **National Wildlife
Crime Unit**

- Intelligence database checks for police wildlife liaison officers across Scotland
- Update of the Operation Easter target list – to support and direct proactive targeting across Scotland
- Freshwater pearl mussel problem profile
- Submission of three Scottish Wildlife Crime Organised Crime Groups
- Network association charts to assist Police Wildlife Liaison Officer investigations
- Bespoke Geographical Information Services (GIS) maps to assist active investigations
- Summary of poaching convictions for Scottish Poaching PDG

In addition, the NWCU's Scottish Investigative Support Officer (SISO) provides advice and „on the ground“ support for wildlife crime investigations. In 2014/2015, the NWCU SISO was involved in casework as well as the strategic development of wildlife crime enforcement and intelligence sharing. The SISO gave advice and assistance to Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Liaison Officers and other organisations on numerous occasions and on a variety of subjects including bird, poaching and pearl mussel crime; traps; disturbance to wildlife caused by public events; coastal and floral crime; environmental disturbance; dangerous wild animals and the sourcing of expert witnesses.

Throughout the year, contributions were provided to several operations involving falconry, peregrine nest protection, hare coursing and raptor crime and the annual delivery of Operation Easter to target egg thieves and nest disturbance during the bird breeding season. There was also a focus on trading in endangered species and the SISO was instrumental in the execution of five search warrants.

The SISO gave presentations at several events throughout the year including local and national police training, Sharing Good Practice events, water bailiff training and the UK Wildlife Crime Enforcer's Conference. An ongoing element of the role continues to include participation in several PAW Scotland groups (Poaching & Coursing, Media, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Raptor).

The NWCU works with Police Scotland to produce intelligence products which are based upon analysis of intelligence. [Table 13](#) below provides a summary of wildlife crime intelligence logs, broken down by relevant keyword. This table has been included to provide a clearer picture of the spread of wildlife crime intelligence dealt with by Police Scotland and the NWCU and reflects the kind of information which is being reported to the police.

Table 14: Scottish Wildlife Crime Intelligence Logs 2014-15

Keyword	Intelligence Logs	% of total
Fish	167	18.0%
Raptor/Bird of Prey	112	12.1%
Deer	106	11.4%
Hare	87	9.4%
Badger	43	4.6%
FWPM/Pearl Mussel	9	1.0%
CITES	6	0.6%
Bat	6	0.6%
All 'other' wildlife	390	42.1%
Total	926	

Source: Scottish Intelligence Database/NWCU (used with permission of Police Scotland)

It should be noted that an intelligence log is not a detected crime but a tool for police to use to establish a bigger picture of what is happening in a given area. A single incident may generate a number of pieces of intelligence. Intelligence logs cannot be used to (a) directly compare year on year nor (b) comment on long term trends, as they are reviewed on a yearly basis and deleted if grounds for inclusion for policing purposes no longer exist. As a result, the number of intelligence logs for any given year decreases over time.

[Table 14](#) provides a summary of the three most common types of priority intelligence log (i.e. not including the „Other“ category) held in the database for 2010-11 to 2014-15.

Table 15: Most Common Priority NWCU Intelligence Logs (2010-11 to 2014-15)

Year	Three most common priority intelligence types (as a percentage of the total number of intelligence logs)
2010-11	Fish (5%), Badger (3%) and Deer, Raptor/Bird of Prey, FWPM/Pearl Mussel (2% each)
2011-12	Fish (11%), Deer (9%) and Hare (3%)
2012-13	Fish (17%), Deer (17%) and Hare (9%)
2013-14	Fish (20%), Deer (16%) and Raptor/Bird of Prey (10%)
2014-15	Fish (18%), Raptor/Bird of Prey (12%) and Deer (11%)

Source: Scottish Intelligence Database/NWCU (used with permission of Police Scotland)

4. Wildlife Crime Priority Areas

Wildlife crime priorities are set at UK level by the Wildlife Crime Tasking and Co-ordinating Group. The group's membership includes the Police, the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW), National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The priorities remained unchanged in 2014-15:

- [Badger persecution](#)
- [Bat persecution](#)
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#)
- [Freshwater pearl mussels](#)
- [Poaching \(including deer poaching, hare coursing, fish poaching\)](#)
- [Raptor persecution](#).

Priority groups on poaching and coursing, and freshwater pearl mussel crime, continue to operate in Scotland, as well as the PAW Scotland Raptor Group (formerly the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group).

The following sections provide more detail on each of these priority areas, along with the relevant data. The additional sections from the 2014 report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and Trapping and Snaring continue to be included.

4.1 New Police Scotland Disaggregated Data

Recommendations made by the previous Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee on improving the data presented in the annual report continue to be built on. In this report, Police Scotland have provided a manual disaggregation of wildlife crime reports and these have now taken the place of data supplied by partner organisations. This data is shown in [Figure 1](#) and [Table 15](#).

In order to assist the reader, the graphs in this section have been presented in a different format so that it is both easy to understand but importantly, to avoid attempts to compare different data sets provided from different sources. The provision of data by Police Scotland has been resource intensive and there will be further consideration of how to simplify this going forward.

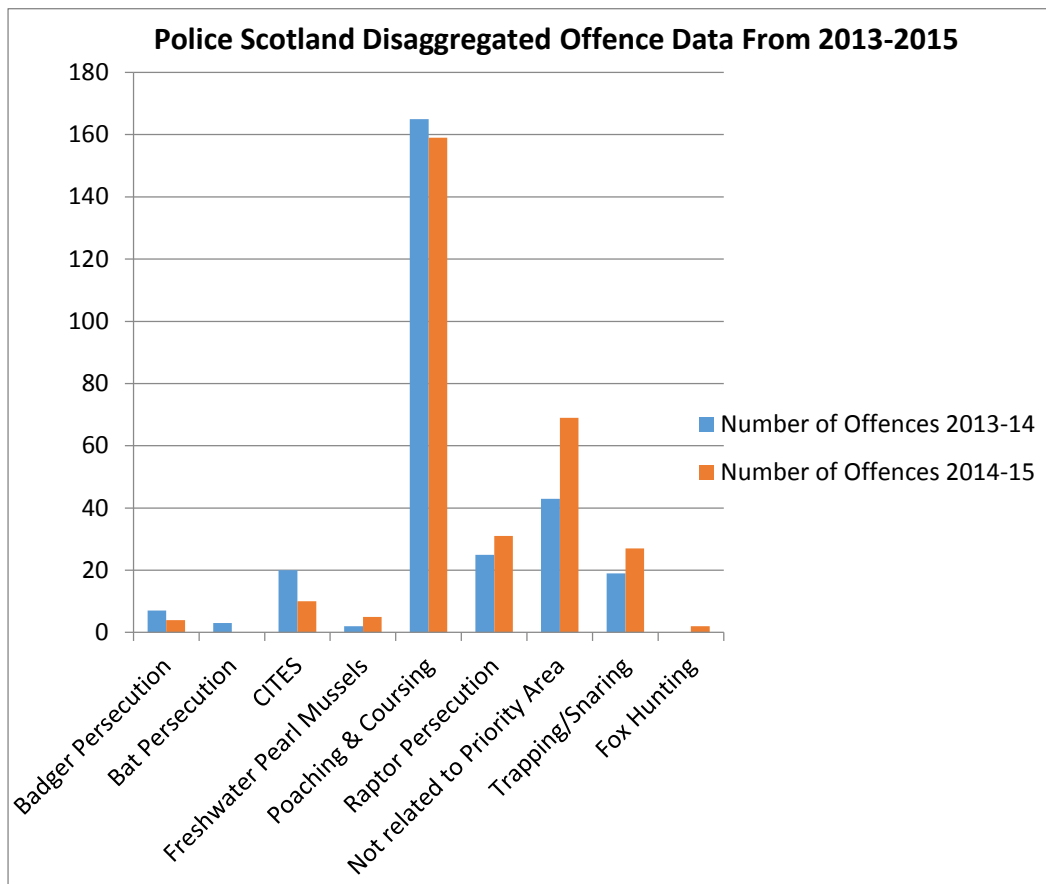
Unfortunately it has not been possible to present the data for each of the 6 priority areas, plus the two additional sections on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and Trapping and Snaring, in a quarterly format.

Data in [Table 1](#) is sourced from the Scottish Government Recorded Crime figures and care should be taken in comparing those figures with the disaggregated figures provided in this section.

The work done by Police Scotland to disaggregate the data was commenced several months after the data for the official Scottish Government Recorded Crime statistics was produced. During the time between the generation of the official statistics and the completion of the disaggregated data results, some crimes may have been 'no-crimed', or reclassified resulting in an observed difference in the crime totals.

Going forward for future reports, this should be less of an issue as the data used to disaggregate the crimes will have been generated at the same time as the official recorded statistics and therefore the totals should be more closely aligned.

Figure 1: Police Scotland Disaggregated Offence Data from 2013-2015



Source: Police Scotland

Table 16: Police Scotland Disaggregated Offence Data from 2013-2015

Wildlife Crime Priority etc.	Number of Offences	
	2013-14	2014-15
Badger Persecution	7	4
Bat Persecution	3	0
CITES	20	10
Freshwater Pearl Mussels	2	5
Poaching & Coursing	165	159
Raptor Persecution	25	31
Not related to Priority Area	43	69
Trapping/Snaring	19	27
Fox Hunting	0	2
Total	284	307

Source: Police Scotland

4.2 Badger Persecution



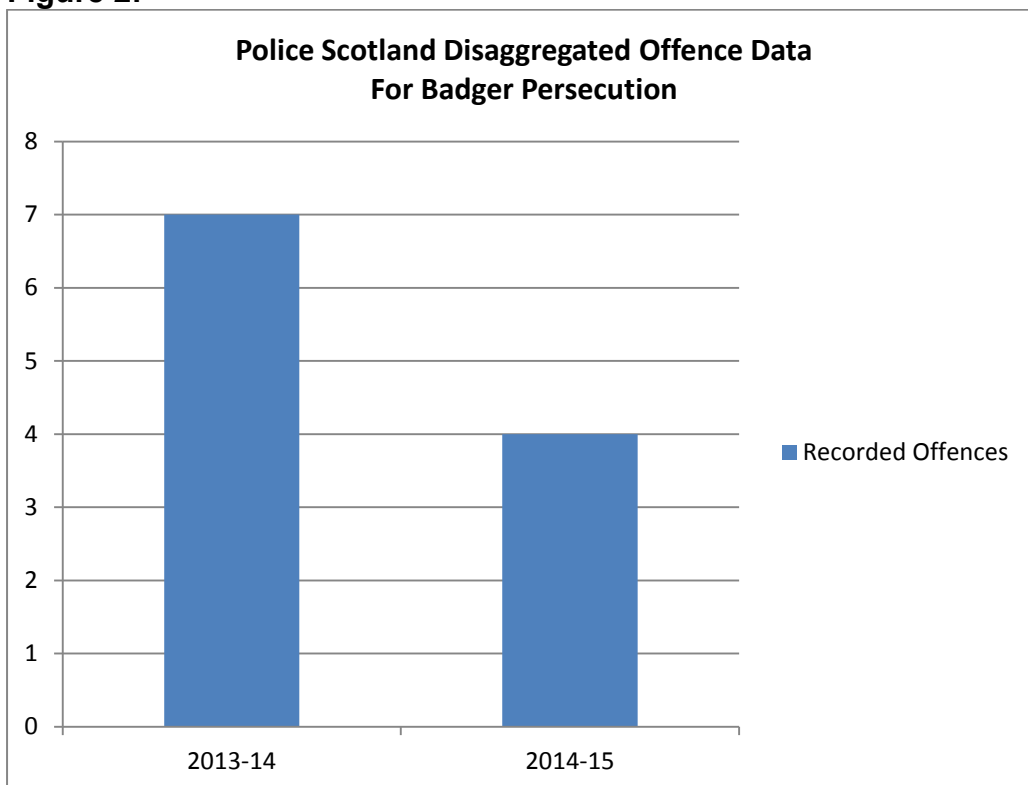
All badgers in Scotland are protected by law, but they are sometimes still illegally targeted by those who see them as a pest or for the purposes of illegal animal fights.

Badger © Harry Scott

Recorded crimes

[Table 15](#) shows that there were four offences relating to badger persecution recorded by Police Scotland in 2014-15, compared to seven in 2013-14. [Table 16](#) provides a further breakdown of the 2014-15 crimes. [Figure 2](#) shows the data as a bar chart for ease.

Figure 2:



Source: Police Scotland

Table 17: Summary of 2014-15 badger persecution crimes

Police Division	Type of Crime	Date
Forth Valley	Sett damage/destruction	May 2014
Fife	Snaring	May 2014
Lothians and Scottish Borders	Sett damage/destruction	September 2014
Fife	Sett blocking	February 2015

Source: Recorded Crime in Scotland

4.3 Bat Persecution



Bats and their roosts are protected by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, which gives strict legal protection to all species listed under Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive – known as European Protected Species (EPS). Scotland's bat population is relatively small compared to other parts of the UK.

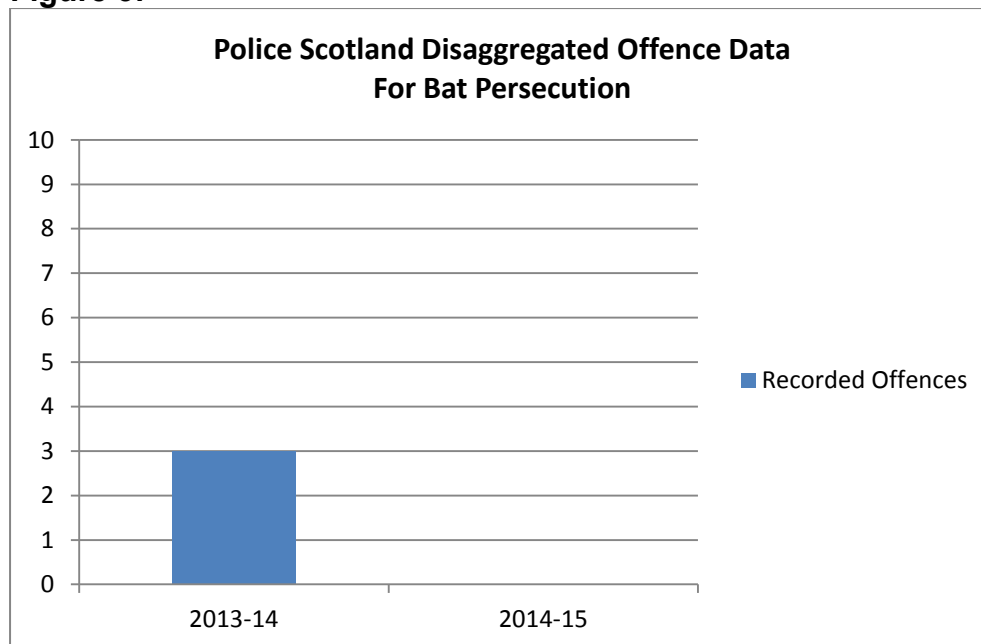
Pipistrelle bat © Lorne Gill/SNH

Recorded crimes

[Table 15](#) and [Figure 3](#) show that there were three offences recorded by Police Scotland in 2013-14, related to three separate incidents. Two of these involved the illegal blocking up of bat roosts, while the other involved the destruction of a tree which was being used as a bat roost.

There were no offences involving bat persecution recorded by Police Scotland in 2014-15. As with all types of wildlife crime, it is entirely possible that some offences were committed, but went unreported. Even one offence can have a significant effect on a local bat population and it is vital that any suspicious activity around bat roosts is reported to the police.

Figure 3:



Source: Police Scotland

4.4 CITES

CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement between governments, which aims to protect certain animal and plant species from over-exploitation by trade.



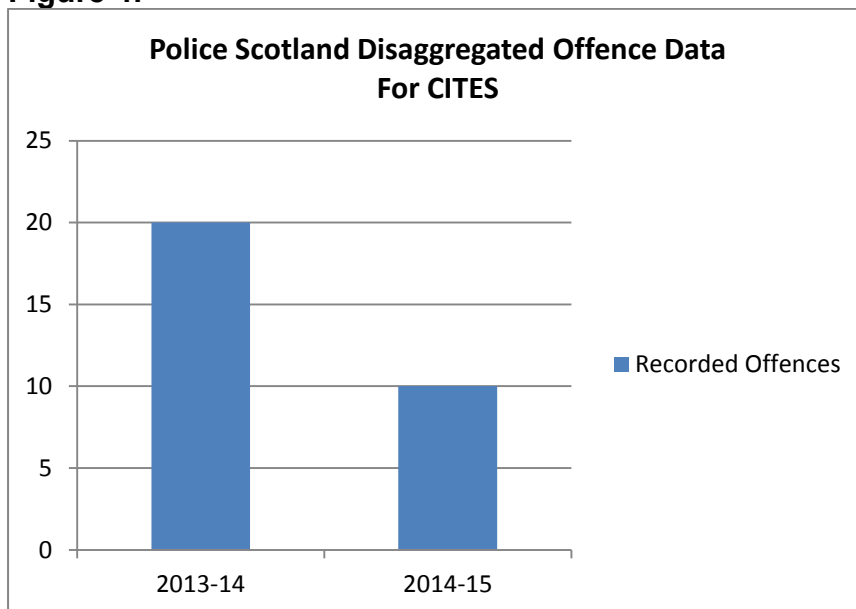
Carved, illegal ivory © Charles Everitt, NWCU

In Scotland and the rest of the UK, this agreement is given legal authority by the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997, known as COTES.

Recorded Crimes

[Table 15](#) and [Figure 4](#) show that 10 CITES-related offences were recorded by Police Scotland in 2014-15, compared to 20 in 2013-14. These 10 offences all related to a single incident, involving the keeping and commercial display of a number of endangered species in Fife. These included wild cats, lemurs, birds of prey and tortoises.

Figure 4:



Source: Police Scotland

Police Scotland expect the numbers of recorded offences to increase in future years, due to increased public awareness and reporting of illegal wildlife trading, particularly online.

4.5 Freshwater Pearl Mussels



Scotland supports several of the largest remaining populations of freshwater pearl mussels (FWPM) in the world which, unfortunately, continue to be damaged by criminal activity. Pearl fishing continues in Scotland, almost uniquely within Europe. FWPM are also threatened by criminal damage by unlawful river engineering and pollution events.

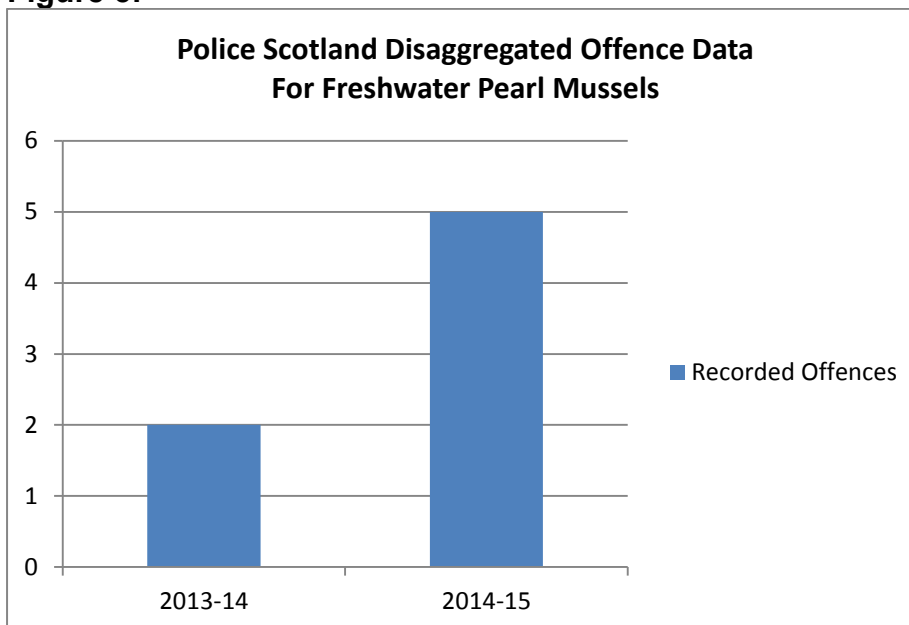
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Shells © Ben Ross, SNH

The overall objective of the FWPM priority delivery group is to raise awareness of the threat posed by criminality and help communities in hotspots to prevent criminality and identify offenders.

Recorded crimes

During 2014-15, 5 offences were recorded by Police Scotland. [Table 15](#) and [Figure 5](#) show the numbers of recorded crimes and incidents for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Figure 5:



Source: Police Scotland

The FWPM delivery group continued to be active in 2015. To further increase awareness of FWPM, Riverwatch schemes were launched on the River South Esk, the River Moriston, in Lochaber and in north Sutherland. These schemes

were to help local communities detect suspicious activity in their local rivers and encourage them to report it to the local police. These schemes represent the culmination of three years of work across many rivers as part of the Pearls in Peril LIFE+ project, and all received a good reception locally and in the media.

Training was also provided to local rangers staff, trainee fishery bailiffs and wildlife crime officers to continue improving awareness of the species and the threats that criminality poses to its conservation. The second national survey of the species in Scotland was also published in 2015 by Scottish Natural Heritage. The survey unfortunately confirmed that criminality remains a key threat to pearl mussels and, alongside water quality, has helped the targeting of action to key sites to help conserve the species. During 2015 pro-active, intelligence-led operations by Police Scotland also took place at key sites to help reduce the threat posed by wildlife crime. Since the national survey was completed, more regular monitoring of key vulnerable populations has taken place to help improve the detection of any potential crimes and support any future prosecutions. Ongoing investigations are also continuing following alleged pollution incidents that damaged local pearl mussel populations.

In December 2015 the first FWPM hotspot maps were published showing hotspots of incidents where crime has affected freshwater pearl mussels showing crimes over the 5 year period 2010-14.

4.6 Poaching and Coursing



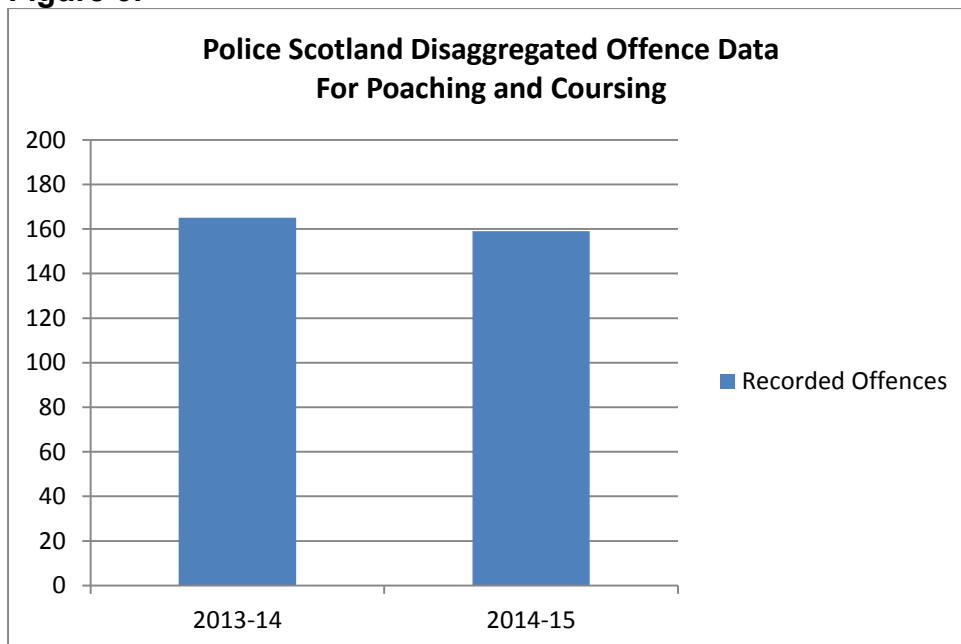
Red Deer © Harry Scott

Poaching involves the taking of deer, fish or other game without permission, or using unlawful methods. Coursing is the hunting of animals with dogs. This section lays out the new Police Scotland disaggregated data in addition to providing an overview on the work of the Poaching & Coursing Delivery Group.

Recorded crimes

During 2014-15, 159 poaching and coursing offences were recorded by Police Scotland data. This was a small decrease from 2013-14 which was 165. [Table 15](#) and [Figure 6](#) show the numbers of recorded crimes for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Figure 6:



Source: Police Scotland

Some offences under this category were outdated and no longer applicable, while others are now covered by different legislation, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and may be included in other categories. Unfortunately this means it is not currently possible to disaggregate certain poaching related offences. Additionally, the new disaggregated data supplied by Police Scotland for poaching and coursing does not differentiate between species (fish, deer etc) and the further break down of these figures will be considered for future reports.



Leaping Salmon © Stuart Brabbs



Poached sea trout © Forth DSFB

As highlighted in [Chapter 2](#), fish poaching related offences were the most common type of wildlife crimes both recorded by Police Scotland and taken forward for prosecution by COPFS in 2014-15.

The Poaching and Delivery Group continued its activities under a new chair of the who was appointed in 2015. The group objectives were reconsidered which resulted in a new action plan being created based around intelligence, prevention and enforcement strategies.

A number of items of work were carried out in 2015 including:

- A seasonality chart identifying times when poaching was most prevalent was created to assist enforcement efforts.
- A recording notebook designed to collate evidence for witnesses to poaching offences was created, launched and distributed.
- Training with regard to identifying, recording and attending wildlife crime incidents was provided to Police Scotland Control Rooms and Service Centre.

4.7 Raptor Persecution



Sparrowhawk © SNH

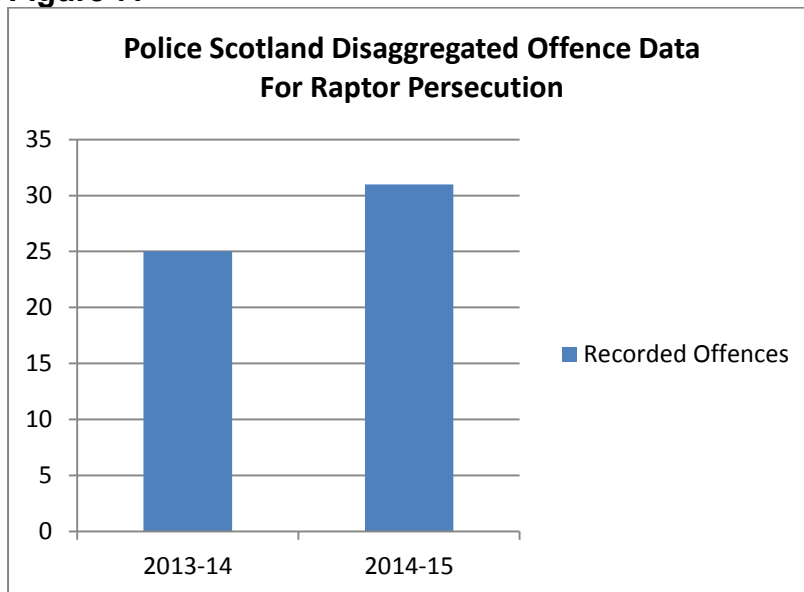
Raptor, or bird of prey, persecution is the most high profile type of wildlife crime in Scotland and it can have serious impacts on the populations of some bird of prey species at local, regional or (if carried out more widely) national level.

This section lays out the new Police Scotland disaggregated data and the SASA poisoning figures in addition to providing some commentary on the work of the PAW Scotland Raptor Group.

Recorded crimes

During 2014-15, 31 offences were recorded by Police Scotland data, and increase from 25 the previous year. [Table 15](#) and [Figure 7](#) show the numbers of recorded crimes for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Figure 7:



Source: Police Scotland

Poisonings and other recorded crimes

[Table 17](#) shows the numbers of birds of prey confirmed by SASA as illegally poisoned between 2010-11 and 2014-15, alongside the number of incidents which resulted in these poisonings. The figures show that buzzards (30) were the most commonly recorded victim of illegal poisoning over the five year period, followed by red kites (26) and golden eagles (7).

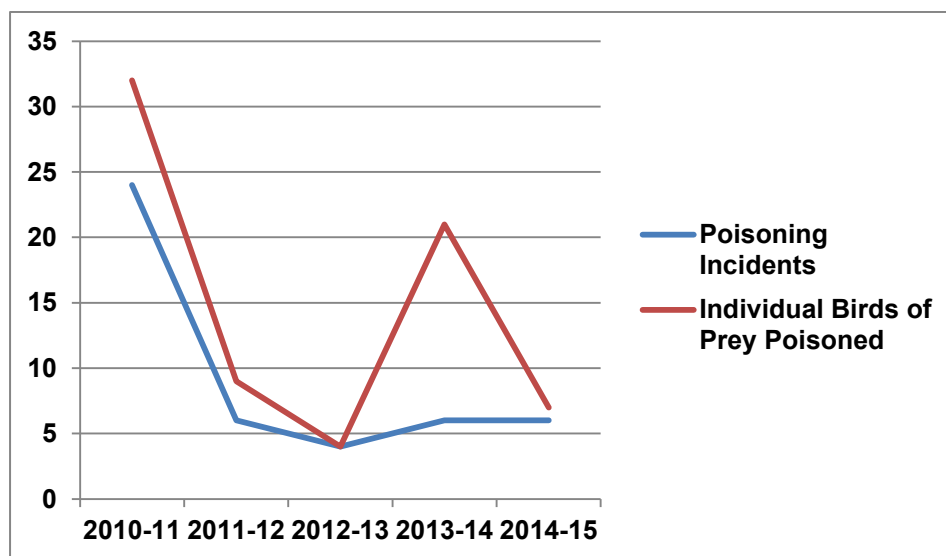
Table 18: Bird of Prey Poisonings, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Year	Number of Birds of Prey Poisoned (By Species)							Number of Incidents
	Buzzard	Red kite	Golden eagle	Peregrine falcon	Sparrow-hawk	White-tailed eagle	All	
2010-11	14	7	5	4	1	1	32	24
2011-12	3	3	1		2		9	6
2012-13	3	1					4	4
2013-14	7	12	1	1			21	6
2014-15	3	3		1			7	6
Total	30	26	7	6	3	1	73	46

Source: Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)
Data for financial year period 1 April 2010-31 March 2015

The number of poisoning incidents over the most recent four years has remained relatively low compared to the high of 24 in 2010-11. However, illegal poisoning still has the capacity to kill high numbers of birds. For example, the large discrepancy in 2013-14 between the numbers of birds poisoned (21) and the number of incidents (6) was due to a single mass poisoning incident in Ross-shire, where 12 red kites and 4 buzzards were confirmed to have been killed with an illegal pesticide.

Figure 8: Bird of Prey Poisonings 2010-11 to 2014-15



Source: SASA

[Tables 18a](#) and [18b](#) show a summary of all recorded crimes against birds of prey in Scotland in 2013-14 and 2014-15. As with the poisoning data, these figures show that the buzzard (involved in 15 of the 37 incidents) was the species most commonly affected. There were more confirmed incidents of shooting (16) during this two-year period than poisoning (12).

Financial year data for wider bird of prey crime is currently only available from 2013-14 onwards. This dataset will be added to each year until it is possible to show a rolling five-year summary as with other data sources in this report.

Table 18a: Recorded Bird of Prey Crimes in Scotland, 2013-14 to 2014-15 by Species Involved

	Number of Incidents (by species involved)										Total
	Buzzard	Hen Harrier	Peregrine	Red Kite	Golden Eagle	Goshawk	Osprey	Red Kite & Buzzard	Tawny Owl	Unknown	
2013-14	8	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	19
2014-15	6	1	3	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	18
Total	14	3	5	6	2	2	1	1	2	1	37

Source: Police Scotland

The number of recorded crimes does not equate to the number of individual birds affected, as some of the incidents involved more than one bird.

Table 18b: Recorded Bird of Prey Crimes in Scotland, 2013-14 to 2014-15 by Type of Crime

	Number of Incidents (by type of crime)					Total
	Shooting	Poisoning	Trapping	Disturbance	Other	
2013-14	8	6	3	2	0	19
2014-15	8	6	1	1	2	18
Total	16	12	4	3	2	37

[Table 19](#) provides further details on each of the 2014-15 recorded bird of prey crimes.

The Raptor Group continued to consider prevention, intelligence and enforcement issues regarding the persecution of birds of prey. The group met quarterly and all partners are required to brief the group in respect of ongoing work that they are involved in to tackle issues of raptor persecution.

In 2015 this included the creation of the annual bird of prey persecution maps and the ongoing work on the Hen Harrier Action Plan.

The Heads Up for Harriers project continued to be the largest piece of work for the group. This aim of the project being to understand more about the distribution of hen harriers and why nests fail.

Members of the public continued to provide sightings, and several estates agreed to have cameras installed on hen harrier nests in their grounds. In 2015, there were five upland estates involved and they recorded some notable successes, with a total of ten young birds fledging from three successful nests. A further three nests failed, two as a result of bad weather and another due to fox predation.

Table 19: Details of Recorded Bird of Prey Crimes in Scotland 2014-15

Species	Police Division	Type of Crime	Date
Buzzard	Dumfries and Galloway	Other (taking a bird)	April 2014
Peregrine	Forth Valley	Shooting	April 2014
Buzzard	Fife	Poisoning	April 2014
Goshawk	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Other (attempt to disturb and kill a bird)	May 2014
Hen Harrier	Ayrshire	Shooting	May 2014
Buzzard	Forth Valley	Shooting	June 2014
Golden Eagle	Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	Disturbance	June 2014
Red Kite	Highlands and Islands	Shooting	July 2014
Red Kite	Forth Valley	Poisoning	July 2014
Peregrine	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	September 2014
Unknown	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Trapping (attempted)	September 2014
Red Kite	Highlands and Islands	Poisoning	September 2014
Buzzard	Tayside	Shooting	October 2014
Buzzard	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	October 2014
Tawny Owl	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	December 2014
Peregrine	Forth Valley	Poisoning	January 2015
Red Kite	Tayside	Poisoning	January 2015
Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	March 2015

Source: Police Scotland



Hen Harrier chicks ©SNH

Additionally, a dedicated phone and e-mail address were created, which has led to the recording of over 100 sightings received from the public, including seven previously unknown active pairs or nests.

4.8 Fox Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

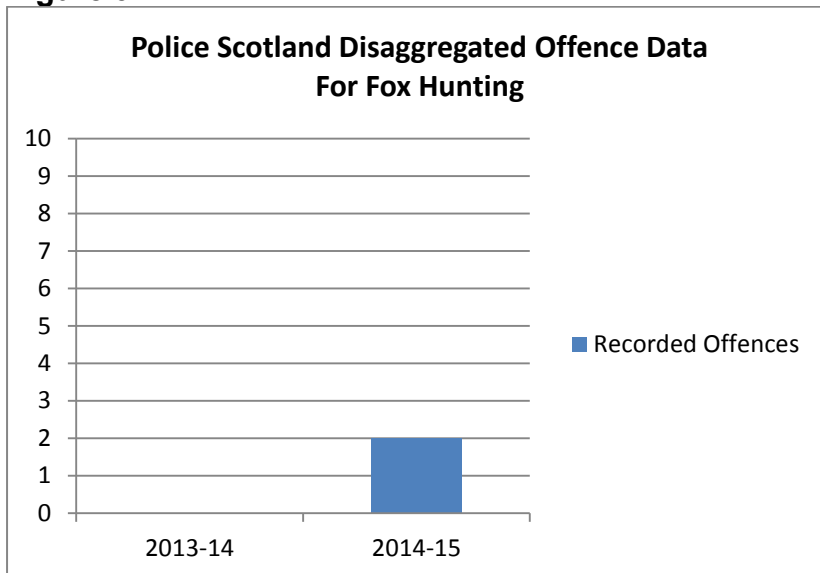
This section highlight offences under the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. Section 1 of the 2002 Act prohibits the deliberate hunting of a wild mammal with a dog. COPFS report that it is most commonly used in connection with hare coursing, although it has also been used for incidents relating to foxes, deer and badgers. It does not prohibit the hunting of rabbits by dogs.

Recorded Crime

The recorded crime statistics in [Table 1](#) and [Figure 9](#) show the figures for the five year period 2010-11 to 2014-15. [Table 2](#) shows that in 2014-15, most of these offences were recorded in the Aberdeenshire and Moray Police Scotland division.

[Figure 9](#) below shows that from the now disaggregated data from Police Scotland, 2 of the 20 hunting with dogs cases related to fox hunting offences, rather than activities such as hare coursing.

Figure 9:



Source: Police Scotland

Prosecutions

In last year's report, the small numbers of cases allowed COPFS to manually search through reports related to the 2002 Act. This has now been amended to show a rolling 5 year data set for consistency in the report – please see [Table 20](#). This indicates the number of cases reported containing a charge under Section 1 of the 2002 Act specifically in connection with allegations of the hunting of foxes with dogs, and their outcomes. As noted earlier in the report, data from COPFS cannot be directly compared to court proceedings statistics in [Tables 4](#) and [6](#).

Table 20: Cases Reported to COPFS involving fox hunting allegations, 2010-11 to 2014-15

Year	Total cases reported	Cases marked no action**	Prosecutions discontinued **	Prosecutions resulting in an acquittal	Prosecutions resulting in a conviction
2010-11	1				1
2011-12					
2012-13					
2013-14	1*			1*	
2014-15					
Total	2 (1*)			1*	1

Source: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

*Figures marked * indicate the number of cases in which the activity appears to have been associated with the activities of a mounted fox hunt.

**The basis for marking cases no action or discontinuing cases was that the evidence was insufficient in law to permit further action.

No cases were reported under the 2002 Act in the financial year 2014-15.

However, Liam Smith was reported for an offence under section 19(2) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 of causing a fox unnecessary suffering and having trapped it in a snare, placing it in a bag and releasing it to waiting dogs that pursued and killed it. He pleaded guilty and on 3 November 2015 he was sentenced to a community payback order with a requirement to carry out 130 hours unpaid work. He was also disqualified from owning or keeping any dog for 5 years.

Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

On 26 December 2015, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr Aileen McLeod, announced that the Right Hon Lord Bonomy would lead a review into the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. Written submissions were invited between 1 February and 31 March 2016.



**Fox cub ©
League Against Cruel Sports**

The review of the review was to consider whether the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 provided sufficient protection for wild mammals, while at the same time allowing effective and humane control of wild mammals, such as foxes, where necessary. The review would not:

- consider whether predator control was necessary to protect livestock or wildlife
- take a view on any particular incident or allegation
- consider the operation of other wildlife legislation unless it had a direct bearing on the operation of the 2002 Act
- consider other types of predator or pest control.

Lord Bonyon's review was published on 21 November and has been submitted to Scottish Ministers for consideration.

4.9 Trapping and Snaring



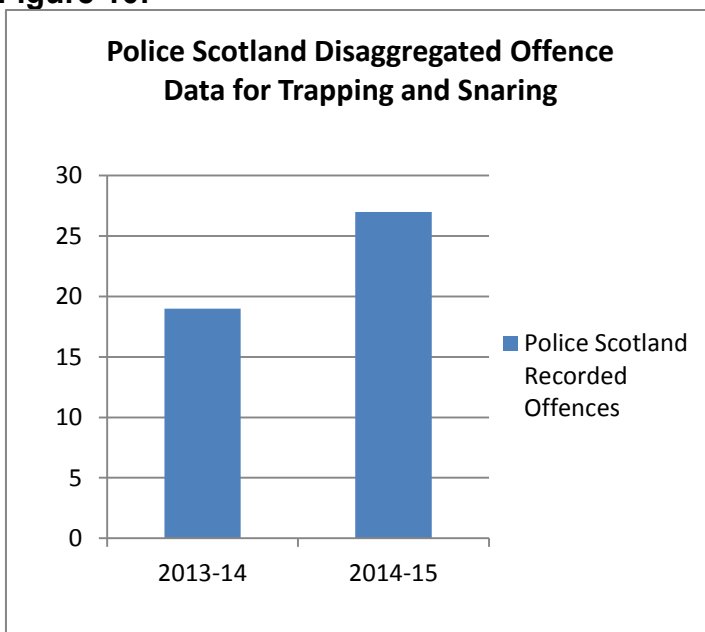
Illegal gin traps, Source © SASA, Crown Copyright
Legal fenn trap, set illegally as a pole trap © BASC

Trapping and snaring are methods which can be legitimately used for the control of some types of wildlife such as corvids, rodents or foxes. This may be for conservation purposes, to protect agricultural or sporting interests or for human health and safety reasons. However, the use of traps and snares is subject to legal restrictions designed to prevent harm to non-target species or unnecessary cruelty.

Recorded crimes

Trapping and snaring figures are not shown as part of the recorded crime statistics in [Table 1](#) as the offence data cannot be broken down to that level. The new disaggregated data from Police Scotland in [Table 15](#) shows that in 2013-14 there were 19 offences which rose to 27 in the following year. [Figure 10](#) shows those Police Scotland figures for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Figure 10:



Source: Police Scotland

The Scottish SPCA identified 52 incidents relating to trapping or snaring offences which were investigated solely by its SIU inspectors.

Figures provided by SAC Consulting Veterinary Services provide some additional detail. In 2014-15, of the cases identified by SAC Consulting as suspected wildlife crime:

- 10 of 26 cases involving mammals, related to trapping or snaring.
- 2 of 30 cases involving birds, related to trapping.

[Table 21](#) below shows the action taken in each of the 14 cases reported to COPFS in the period 2014-15. 50 per cent of those cases resulted in convictions. Of those 14 cases:

- 7 reports related to the use of traps.
- 7 reports related to the use of snares.

Table 21: Trapping and snaring related cases reported to COPFS, 2014-15

	No action	Warning	Acquitted or prosecution discontinued	Conviction	Total
Birds (non-raptor)		1			1
Hares or rabbits					
Raptors	2		1*	2	5
Other	1		2	5	8
Total	3	1	3	7	14

Source: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

* **Note:** This case also involved allegations of mammal trapping offences, but is not duplicated in the "Other" figure below.

5. PAW Scotland



The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland consists of law enforcement bodies, wildlife and animal welfare charities, land management organisations and government agencies, working together to fight wildlife crime.

The partnership is supported by the Scottish Government. Its work is overseen by an Executive Group, comprising representatives of selected stakeholders and the chairs of PAW Scotland sub-groups and wildlife crime priority groups based in Scotland. A wider Plenary Group, made up of representatives of all PAW Scotland member organisations, meets to give an opportunity to all members to comment on PAW projects and raise any wildlife crime issues. Both these groups are chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

The Executive group met twice in 2015, while the Plenary group met once. The latest information on the activities and membership of the partnership is available on the PAW Scotland website at www.PAW.Scotland.gov.uk.

PAW Scotland Sub-Groups

PAW Scotland operates a number of sub-groups focusing on a particular aspect of wildlife crime work. A summary of the 2015 work of these groups is provided below.

Legislation, Regulation and Guidance Sub-group

The group met in April and November 2015. It has been following the progress with the first instances of SNH exercising in areas with a record of wildlife crime, its power to remove the capacity to rely on general licences to authorise certain activities.

The group has been following three major reviews of wildlife law and is likely to be more actively engaged in any actions that flow from them:

- Wildlife Penalties Review undertaken by Professor Poustie for the Scottish Government published November 2015; the Government responded in February 2016, stating an intention to implement many of the recommendations.
- Law Commission's Report on Wildlife Crime (England and Wales); this recommended substantial reforms to the law, including ones to ensure compliance with EU provisions, but there is no indication of imminent legislative measures.
- EU "Fitness Check" of the Birds and Habitats Directives; the Commission has not yet completed its work, but the process attracted unprecedented levels of public participation, with strong support for the current framework.

Other issues that the group have discussed include:

- Studies into the use of corvid traps (led by Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture with support from SNH and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust).
- Disturbance of ground-nesting birds by dogs not a lead and the guidance offered by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Training and Awareness Sub-group

With partner organisations already working closely together to deliver wildlife crime training, the group agreed that its focus should remain on identifying any gaps in partner training, supporting/reporting on police training, and on face to face awareness raising and provision of advice for the public and stakeholders.

Police Scotland introduced a Wildlife Crime Officer Awareness Course in 2015 and further developed the input to officers undertaking detective training. The establishment of a dedicated intranet page on wildlife crime also allowed a number of guidance documents (such as the Wildlife Crime Guidance Booklet, PAW Forensic Guide, PAW Scotland Science Group Guidance on the Handling and Recovery of Evidence from Spring Traps) to be housed in one easily accessible place. In addition, inputs were delivered to a range of non-wildlife crime continuous professional development events. In September 2015, a specific law enforcement conference was held at the Police Scotland College, Tulliallan, with more than 80 attendees from across a range of organisations.

Partners including Bat Conservation Trust, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Scottish Gamekeepers Association and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds amongst others, continued to assist with the delivery of training to Wildlife Crime Officers across the Divisions in Police Scotland. In addition, SNH delivered a wildlife crime input to Hydro / Wind Farm developers, whilst wildlife crime inputs were also delivered as part of a training day for SNH bat workers.

The group also considered future options for wildlife crime conferences, information sharing events and the organisation and staffing for the PAW Scotland stand at outdoor summer shows. Specifically, a decision was taken to postpone the proposed Sharing Good Practice event and this was rescheduled for September 2016.

Funding Sub-group

In 2015 the PAW Funding Sub-Group provided 3-year funding until 2018 to support the ongoing work of both the National Wildlife Crime Unit's Scottish Investigation Support Officer, and the RSPB's Investigation Team. In addition, a grant was awarded to the RSPB for a project involving the satellite tagging of golden eagles.

Outwith the PAW Funding Sub Group, SNH provided a contribution to Abertay University enable further research into the recovery of finger marks from bird feathers.

Several other grant applications were received by the PAW Funding Sub-Group, however priority was given to those which best met the funding criteria and the objectives of PAW Scotland.

Media Sub-group

The media group led or contributed to a number of media articles in 2015, including:

- Targeted articles for industry/trade/regional publications on managing developments around bat roosts; avoiding illegal disturbance during wildlife photography; and the recording and reporting of poaching or coursing incidents.
- The publication of new hotspot maps showing suspected incidents of crimes against freshwater pearl mussels
- News releases on raptor crime hotspots, the SG pesticides disposal scheme and updates from the hen harrier action plan.

It was agreed that the PAW Scotland web pages were becoming dated and in need of a refresh, but this work was put on hold pending a planned major revamp of the whole Scottish Government website. The group also reviewed the PAW Scotland media protocol and discussed best practice in media handling when details of high-profile wildlife crime incidents were issued.

Scientific Sub-group

The PAW Scotland Scientific Sub-Group met in March and August of 2015. The group welcomed a new representative from Moredun, Dr Tom McNeilly. Key activities included:

- Distribution of a guide to recovering fingerprint and DNA evidence from Spring Traps to Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority
- Casework review with Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer – identifying areas where science could assist with investigations
- Provided input to the Scottish Government's Environmental Science & Analysis Unit raptor poisoning analysis.

6. Scottish Government

This section lays out details of specific projects carried out by the Scottish Government over the time period of this report.

Wildlife Crime Penalties Review

A review group was set up by Scottish Government in 2014 to look at the penalties for wildlife crime offences and determine whether or not they were appropriate. The group was chaired by Professor Mark Poustie of Strathclyde University and included representatives from law enforcement, government, land management and ornithology groups.

The review group published its report on 19 November 2015, setting out ten recommendations. The report concluded that penalties for wildlife crimes had fallen behind those for other types of environmental crime, and that fine levels for many of these crimes have not kept pace with inflation.

As well as increases to the maximum available penalties, the report also recommended greater use of alternative penalties such as forfeiture, systematic use of impact statements in court, new sentencing guidelines, and consolidation of wildlife legislation.

The then Environment Minister Dr Aileen McLeod, accepted the group's findings and committed to taking forward a number of recommendations including:

- Increasing the maximum penalties for wildlife offences to £40,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment, to bring them in line with other environmental offences;
- Greater use of alternative penalties such as the forfeiture of equipment used to carry out offences;
- Greater use of impact statements in court to better explain the impact a wildlife crime may have;
- Exploring the creation of new sentencing guidelines.

Further details, including the group's full report and the Minister's response, can be the [PAW Scotland](#) website.

Pesticides Disposal Scheme



Following several illegal wildlife poisoning incidents, including the mass poisoning of red kites and buzzards in Ross-shire in early 2014, the then Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse announced a free scheme to encourage those in possession of illegal pesticides to get rid of them, safely and confidentially with the aim to remove these dangerous poisons from Scotland's environment.

Source © SASA, Crown Copyright

The free, confidential scheme funded by the Scottish Government, was operated and administered with the help of NFU Scotland, and promoted by other PAW Scotland land management stakeholders. It ran from the period 23 February to 29 May 2015.

191 collections were carried out by SEPA-approved waste disposal companies, removing hundreds of kilograms of dangerous illegal pesticides from Scotland's environment. [Table 22](#) provides a breakdown of the substances safely disposed of through the scheme.

Table 22: Summary of pesticides removed through 2015 disposal scheme

Pesticide (Active Ingredient)	Stocks Collected	Percentage of all stocks collected	Total Estimated Weight (kg)
Sodium Cyanide	110	47.6%	482
Strychnine	68	29.4%	5
Aluminium Phosphide	17	7.4%	44
Carbofuran	10	4.3%	107
Mevinphos	9	3.9%	29
(Alpha)Chloralose	8	3.5%	8
Aldicarb	5	2.2%	30
Unknown	4	1.7%	16
Totals	231		722

Note: Carbosulfan, Isufenphos and most Bendiocarb products were also accepted through the scheme, however no verified requests for collection of these substances were received.

7. Police Scotland



Police Scotland has continued to recognise that wildlife crime attracts significant public interest and in 2015 has further developed the capacity and capability it has in place to tackle these issues.

In March 2015 the first Wildlife Crime Officer Awareness course was held at the Police Scotland College, Tulliallan. The one day course provided a basic introduction to wildlife crime for those officers with little or no wildlife crime investigation experience. As well as inputs covering the six wildlife crime priorities, there were further presentations from the National Wildlife Crime Unit, Scottish Natural Heritage, COPFS and BASC. Forty officers attended representing all Divisions across Police Scotland, as well as an officer from British Transport Police.

March 2015 also saw Police Scotland launch a Wildlife Crime awareness campaign with a broad remit to raise public awareness of wildlife crime in both urban and rural settings. The aim of the campaign was to reinforce Police Scotland's wildlife crime key messages around partnership working and preventing crime. "Let's put an end to Wildlife Crime. Keep your eyes open; report any suspicious activity" encouraged the audience to help Police Scotland tackle wildlife crime by being vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity.



The campaign included print advertising in national newspapers and regional titles across Scotland, social media advertisements, the use of stencils in public parks and the distribution of A4 posters highlighting the national priorities.



Across Facebook, Twitter and YouTube wildlife crime key messages were regularly posted throughout the campaign period and the content included videos, photos, case studies and infographics to bring the messages to life and reach an audience in the region of 1.2 million people. In addition, a dedicated public facing internet page was created on the Police Scotland website providing information on aspects of wildlife crime, what to do at the scene of a potential crime and how to report it.

As well as the external aspects of the campaign, Police Scotland ran a parallel internal communications campaign. This included a series of six articles on wildlife crime on the Police Scotland intranet and the creation of a specific wildlife crime page in order to raise awareness and better equip officers and staff to deal with incidents. A pocket sized Wildlife Crime Guidance booklet was distributed in hard copy and is now available as an e-document on the force intranet. The booklet provides information and advice for officers and staff on a wide range of

wildlife crime enquiries including key aspects of crime scene preservation, legislation and contact details for significant partners.



Throughout the summer officers once again provided a major contribution to the PAW Scotland presence at a range of events. The Royal Highland Show, the RSPB Big Nature Festival and the Scottish Game Fair at Scone, were again just some of the national events attended, whilst at a Divisional level officers also had a presence at a significant number of local events right across the country, from the Borders Union in the south to the Black Isle Show in the north.

On 24th September 2015, the college at Tulliallan hosted a Continuous Professional Development event for those involved in wildlife crime law enforcement. Although the majority of attendees were from Police Scotland, representatives from COPFS, UK Border Force, SASA and Scottish Natural Heritage were also in attendance. Approximately 80 attendees received presentations on Firearms Licensing, the Trade in Endangered Species, Corporate Communications and Forensics, as well as two case studies covering the first Vicarious Liability case in Scotland and the Black Isle red kite enquiry.

The growth of the internet has impacted on many areas of crime and wildlife crime is not immune to this. Operation COBRA 3 was the biggest ever coordinated international law enforcement operation targeting the illegal trade in endangered species. Police Scotland worked closely with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, Border Force and Europol on a number of investigations and as a result search warrants were executed at commercial and domestic premises across Scotland. The internet allows those committing this form of criminality far larger markets in which to trade but has also meant that the public has greater visibility of potential crimes leading to increased reporting to law enforcement agencies.



Finally, 2015 saw the appointment of a further full time Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer (WCLO) with the creation of a post in Highland and Islands Division. This new appointment increased the number of full time WCLOs in Scotland to six with another 7 Divisions having a part time WCLO, an improvement on the number prior to the establishment of a single force in 2013.

All images in Chapter 7 Source © Police Scotland

8. Legislative Changes

The following Scottish legislation, with relevance to wildlife crime, came into force in 2015.

[The Snares \(Training\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#)

This Order updated the list of approved bodies authorised to provide certificated training in the use of snares (a legal requirement for all snare users).

[The Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015](#)

These Regulations provide a safeguard against the potential for adverse environmental effects associated with the introduction and movement of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture, and consist largely of mitigation measures to provide these safeguards. Aquaculture operators intending to undertake the introduction of alien species or the translocation of a locally absent species must apply for permission as required by the Regulations.

[EU Regulation \(1143/2014\) on invasive alien \(non-native\) species](#)

This EU regulation entered into force on 1 January 2015. The Regulation imposes restrictions on a list of species known as “species of Union concern”. These are species whose potential adverse impacts across the European Union are such that concerted action across Europe is required. This list is drawn up by the European Commission and managed with Member States using risk assessments and scientific evidence. The Regulation has effect in Scotland.

9. Priority Work for 2016

While this report is for 2015, there is clearly considerable public interest in on-going work to combat wildlife crime, and this section has been included to provide a brief update on the most high profile areas of work being taken forward in 2016 and beyond. Where appropriate, further details will be provided in subsequent annual reports.

Review of Game Bird Shooting Regulation

During a debate on wildlife crime in the Scottish Parliament in May 2014, the Scottish Government committed to undertake a review of the regulation of game bird hunting in other countries.

This work was intended to be commenced after completion of the wildlife crime penalties review and the tender was awarded early in 2016. The review of game bird hunting in other countries was put out to tender by SNH in January 2016 and will be published shortly.

The review has concentrated on shooting regimes which have similarities to practices in Scotland, and will provide a reference to other legislative and practical mechanisms which are in place elsewhere. The review will not provide recommendations but instead will provide a greater level of information to inform future policy decision making.

Review of Satellite Tagging Data

After numerous reports of missing satellite tagged raptors in 2016, the Cabinet Secretary announced a review of satellite tracking data to find out more about the pattern of disappearances of satellite tagged birds of prey and whether there are any patterns of suspicious activity. The Cabinet Secretary advised that it was important to establish how, where and why raptors with functioning tags seem to regularly disappear and this review will add to the evidence base and become a significant factor in deciding the next steps for tackling wildlife crime.

The review will investigate a massive data set on satellite tagged raptors, much of it funded and held by RSPB, Highland Foundation for Wildlife and Natural Research. The review will report on the fate of tagged birds, the distribution of losses and known and adjudged causes of loss. It will attempt to determine the significance of these losses nationally and regionally, and factors associated with these. Drawing on international research, the review will comment on the reliability of tags, any effects of tags on raptors, and any inferences on the value of the techniques employed in Scotland. The review will be limited to data relating to missing tagged golden and white tailed eagles, hen harriers and red kites but will also draw on data from tagged ospreys.

Led by Scottish Natural Heritage in association with experienced and respected researchers in this area, the review will be scientifically robust, and peer-reviewed.

Programme for Government 2016

Commitments to tackle wildlife crime were made by the Scottish Government in the Programme for Government (PfG), published on 6 September 2016.

“We must protect the environment from those who seek to damage it for personal gain. We will increase the penalties for wildlife crime and consider the creation of new sentencing guidelines in line with recommendations from the Wildlife Crimes Penalties Review Group. Police Scotland will create a new Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit to support the existing network of wildlife crime officers in complex investigations.

In order to safeguard vulnerable species from illegal persecution, we will carry out a review of prevention measures including the operation of the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime and supporting Police Scotland in their work to target wildlife crime hotspots. We are prepared to introduce legislation where necessary.

We will consider the outcome of Lord Bonomy’s review into whether existing legal controls on hunting with dogs provide the intended level of protection for foxes and other wild mammals, while allowing for the effective and humane control of these animals where required.”

These commitments are far ranging and varied and will require a number of approaches for implementation; including the identification of legislative vehicles and a review of existing set-ups such as the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime in Scotland. Details of these various pieces of work will be announced as they are finalised.

Since the PfG was announced, Lord Bonomy’s review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 has been published and submitted to Scottish Ministers for consideration.

Additionally, the Scottish Sentencing Council published its [Business Plan for 2015-18](#) on 6 October 2016, and this has confirmed that preparatory work to create new sentencing guidelines for environmental and wildlife crime will be commenced.

Appendix 1 - Offence Categories and Legislation

This Appendix provides further detail on the offence categories used in the wildlife crime and court proceedings statistics in Chapter 2, broken down by the crime codes used to group offences and the legislation which includes these offences.

Offences relating to	Crime code (number and description)	Legislation
Badgers	51015 – Offences involving badgers	Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Birds	51004 – Birds, offences involving	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Cruelty to wild animals	51014 - Cruelty to wild animals	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Deer	57002 - Deer (Scotland) offences	Deer (Scotland) Act 1996
Hunting with dogs	51013 – Hunting with dogs	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002
Conservation (e.g. protected sites, conservation orders)	73022 - Other conservation offences	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
Poaching and game laws	57001 - Poaching and game laws	Game (Scotland) Act 1772; Game (Scotland) Act 1832; Night Poaching Act 1828; Poaching Prevention Act 1862; Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948
Fish Poaching	56001 - Salmon and freshwater fisheries offences	Freshwater & Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act 1976; Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Protection) (Scot) Act 1951; Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consol) (Scot) Act 2003; Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
	56003 - Possession of salmon or trout unlawfully obtained	Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scot) Act 2003; Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Protection) (Scotland) Act 1951; Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed Order)
Other wildlife offences (e.g. European Protected Species, CITES, attempts to commit offences)	51016 - Other wildlife offences	The Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994; Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981; Control of Trade In Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regs 1997

Appendix 2 - Progress Against RACCE Recommendations

The information and data in this fourth wildlife crime annual report has continued to be improved in accordance with the recommendations made by the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee (RACCE).

The then Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr Aileen McLeod, responded to the RACCE Committee in her letter of 25 February 2016, with responses to additional questions raised in their letter of 3 February 2016, and these have largely been taken forward.

However, due to resource pressures the following recommendations have not yet been taken forward by Scottish Government officials:

- Presenting data on a quarterly basis.
- A breakdown on resource COPFS apply to wildlife crime.
- The impact of land reform legislation on wildlife crime.

These areas will be considered for the fifth annual report.

Appendix 3 - Notes and Definitions for COPFS Data

- The information was compiled on 24 June 2016.
- The figures in [Table 3](#) and in the tables in [Appendix 3A](#) represent cases reported to COPFS.
- The figures reflect the current Scottish Government offence categories and include cases reported as animal welfare or common law offences which meet the definition of wildlife crime. The figures for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are now presented by financial year and have been re-categorised in accordance with these categories and by financial year.
- If several cases have been combined, they are represented by a single outcome.
- Cases which contain several charges falling into different categories are listed under only one. In most cases, the category will reflect the most significant wildlife offence reported to COPFS by the investigating agency but in some the category may be adjusted to take account of the prosecution of a more appropriate charge or of the conviction recorded.
- Figures in the “Badgers” category relate to reports submitted to COPFS in which a charge under the Badgers Act 1992 (“the Act”) was reported, whether or not it was the lead charge. Further explanation is provided in the supplementary note on Appendix 3A below.
- Since 2012, the poaching of game birds has been an offence under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and these cases are now included in the category, “Birds, offences involving”.
- Offences involving the poaching of mammals may be included in the categories “Hunting with Dogs”, “Cruelty to wild animals” “Deer” or “Other wildlife offences” depending on the circumstances and the charges reported or prosecuted.
- Alternatives to prosecution include conditional offers by the Procurator Fiscal (“fiscal fines”, etc. under section 302 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, accepted or deemed to have been accepted by the accused), warning letters and diversion from prosecution. Diversion from Prosecution is the referral of an accused to the supervision of a social worker, etc. for the purposes of support, treatment or other action as an alternative to prosecution.
- A 'conviction' denotes any case involving a wildlife offence which has been prosecuted and at least one accused in the case has pleaded guilty to or been found guilty of at least one offence having a wildlife element.

- A single case may relate to multiple incidents and to multiple accused persons. Any case involving more than one accused person, in which the outcome for each person is different, is counted at the level of the highest outcome only. For example if one person is acquitted while another is convicted, the case is counted as a conviction.

Appendix 3A - Further information on COPFS Case Outcomes

Table A: Outcomes of all fish poaching cases

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	13	11	9
Alternative to prosecution	18	16	21
Prosecuted	24	33	8
<i>of which convicted</i>	19	23	8
Total number of reports received	55	60	38

Table B: Outcomes of all other wildlife cases

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
Under investigation		1	1
No action	22	18	14
Alternative to prosecution	12	14	13
Prosecuted	37	32	32*
<i>of which convicted</i>	25	24	20
Total number of reports received	71	65	60

*One prosecution remains live

Outcomes by Individual Case Category

Table C: Offences relating to badgers

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	1		1
Alternative to prosecution			1
Prosecuted	2		2
<i>of which convicted</i>	2		1
No. of reports received	3		4

Table D: Offences relating to birds

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
Under investigation		1	1
No action	7	3	3
Alternative to prosecution	2	5	3
Prosecuted	11	12	10**
<i>of which convicted</i>	8	10	7
No. of reports received	20	21	17

**One prosecution remains live

Table E: Offences relating to cruelty to wild animals

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	1	2	3
Alternative to prosecution	2	3	2
Prosecuted	4	5	6
<i>of which convicted</i>	2	4	4
No. of reports received	7	10	11

Table F: Offences relating to deer

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	2		2
Alternative to prosecution	1	1	
Prosecuted	5	3	3
<i>of which convicted</i>	3	2	1
No. of reports received	8	4	5

Table G: Offences relating to hunting with dogs

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	2	7	2
Alternative to prosecution			
Prosecuted	7	6	4
<i>of which convicted</i>	5	3	2
No. of reports received	9	13	6

Table H: Other wildlife offences

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	8	6	3
Alternative to prosecution	7	5	7
Prosecuted	8	6	7
<i>of which convicted</i>	5	5	5
No. of reports received	23	17	17

Table I: Other conservation offences

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	1		
Alternative to prosecution			
Prosecuted			
<i>of which convicted</i>			
No. of reports received	1		

Badger cases – supplementary note

Between April 2012 and March 2015, four reports were submitted to COPFS in which an offence under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 was the lead charge. A further three reports contained a charge under the Act, but the lead charge was one under snaring or animal welfare legislation. The figures provided in Tables 3 and in Table C of Appendix 3A reflect all seven cases.

The tables reflect case outcomes for any other appropriate offence, including snaring and animal welfare offences, if the circumstances did not justify the reporting or prosecution of charges under the Act.

A further 3 cases reported in these 3 years related to circumstances in which badgers were affected, bringing the total number of cases to 10. The outcomes of these 10 cases are shown in [Table J](#) below.

Table J: Case outcomes of supplementary Badgers offences

	2012-2013	2013-14	2014-2015
No action	1		1
Alternative to prosecution			1
Prosecuted	3		4
<i>of which convicted</i>	3		3
No. of reports received	4		6

Six of the ten reports involved snaring incidents. In one such case, the evidence did not establish that an offence was committed. The remaining five were prosecuted and resulted in convictions.

Four of the reports related to sett interference, two of which involved the deliberate targeting of badgers and both were prosecuted. One resulted in a conviction. The other prosecution was brought to an end by the court. The remaining two cases related to agricultural or ground-work activity. One case was dealt with by the use of a prosecutor's direct measure. No action could be taken in the other case for legal reasons.

Appendix 4 - Court Proceedings and Penalties Data by Specific Offence

Table A: People proceeded against in Scottish Courts for wildlife offences, where main charge

Crime group and legislation	Section of act	Description of offence	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total proceeded against			53	71	77	80	51
Badgers:			3	2	-	-	2
PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992	3(1)(A)	Damaging a badger sett	2	-	-	-	-
	3(1)(B)	Destroying a badger sett	1	-	-	-	-
	3(1)(E)	Disturbing a badger in a sett	-	1	-	-	-
	11A(1)	Attempt to commit offence under this Act	-	1	-	-	2
Birds:			6	15	19	10	8
WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	1(1)(A)	Intentionally, recklessly: kills, injures, takes wild bird	4	5	14	7	5
	1(1)(C)	Intentionally, recklessly: takes, destroys egg of any wild bird	-	3	1	-	-
	1(2)(A)	Possession: live, dead wild bird or part of	-	2	-	1	1
	1(2)(B)	Possession: wild bird's egg or part of	-	1	-	1	-
	1(5)(A)	Intentionally, recklessly: disturbs nesting Schedule 1 wild bird	-	2	2	1	-
	1(5C)	Knowingly cause, permit offence under foregoing provisions	-	1	1	-	-
	5(1)(A)	Prohibition of certain methods of killing/taking wild birds: sets particular articles or poisonous substance	2	-	-	-	-
	5(1)(B)	Prohibition of certain methods of killing/taking wild birds: use of such articles; nets, board, lime etc	-	1	1	-	2
Cruelty to wild animals:			2	4	9	4	3
WILD MAMMALS (PROTECTION) ACT 1996	1	Mutilates, beats, stabs, impales etc any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering	-	1	-	-	-

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	10A(1)	Intentionally, recklessly: kills, injures, takes Schedule 5A wild animal (i.e. hare) during close season	-	-	-	-	1
	11(1)(A)	Sets or uses a self-locking snare or snare of any other type specified in an order made by Scottish Ministers	-	-	-	1	-
	11(1)(AA)	Sets or uses any other type of snare of a nature or placement calculated to cause unnecessary suffering	1	1	-	3	1
	11(2)(A)	Sets articles likely to injure Schedule 6 wild animal	-	-	-	-	1
	11(3) & (3B)(A)	Failure to inspect snare at intervals of no more than 24 hours (or causing or permitting this to happen)	1	-	-	-	-
	11(G)(1)	Prevention: poaching (hares and rabbits)	-	2	9	-	-
Deer:			3	8	3	5	2
DEER (SCOTLAND) ACT 1996	5(1),5(5) & SCHEDULE 6	Taking etc deer in close season	1	3	1	-	-
	17(1)	Take/kill deer without right on any land	1	1	-	3	-
	17(2)	Take/kill deer without right on any land and remove carcass	-	1	-	-	-
	17(3)	Kill/injure deer other than by shooting	-	2	-	1	-
	18(1)	Kill/injure deer at night	-	1	-	-	-
	22	Two or more persons partaking in offences (17-21 of this Act) shall all be guilty of an offence	-	-	2	1	2
	23(1)	Possession of deer, firearms, ammunition connected to relevant offence	1	-	-	-	-
Hunting with dogs:			9	5	11	9	3
PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002	1(1)	Deliberately hunting wild mammal with a dog	9	5	11	9	3
Poaching and game laws:			8	8	1	-	-
GAME (SCOTLAND) ACT 1772	1	Taking/killing/selling/possessing/buying game birds out of season	-	2	-	-	-

GAME (SCOTLAND) ACT 1832	1	Trespassing on land during daytime in pursuit of game (and disguised for this purpose)	2	3	-	-	-
NIGHT POACHING ACT 1828	1	Unlawfully taking game or rabbits at night on any land, or entering land with a gun or other instrument for this purpose	2	3	1	-	-
	9	Three or more people unlawfully entering land at night armed with weapon to take game or rabbits are all guilty of offence	3	-	-	-	-
POACHING PREVENTION ACT 1862	2	Possession of unlawfully taken game	1	-	-	-	-
Fish poaching:			22	18	23	43	19
FRESHWATER & SALMON FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976	1(8)	Contravening prohibition contained in Order (for protection of freshwater fishing)	-	-	-	1	-
SALMON & FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT 1975	27(A)	Fishing or taking fish by unapproved/unlicensed means	1	-	-	-	-
SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (CONSOLIDATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003	1(1)(A)&(B)	Fishing for salmon by unspecified methods in any inland waters	3	1	3	-	1
	1(1)(A)(B)&(3)	Attempting or preparing to commit offence under Section 1(1) of this Act	-	-	-	-	1
	1(2)(A)(B)(C)	Fishing for salmon by unspecified methods in other salmon fishery district	-	-	-	-	1
	1(2)(A,B,C)&(3)	Attempting or preparing to commit offence under Section 1(2) of this Act	-	1	-	-	-
	2(1)&(2)	Fishing (inc attempting) for freshwater fish other than by rod or line (unless otherwise permitted)	4	2	-	-	-
	6(1)&(2)	Fishing (inc attempting) for salmon without right	4	5	5	15	3
	7	Illegal fishing - two or more persons acting together	-	1	4	2	-
	9(1)&(2)	Illegal possession salmon or trout, or other instrument, poison, explosive etc for purpose of committing related offence	1	1	2	2	6
11(1)	Fishing without right or permission in water (proper stank or loch) where rights owned by another	6	-	1	12	4	

	13(2)&(4)	Fishing for or taking salmon during Sunday	-	-	2	2	-
	13(3)&(4)	Fishing for or taking salmon during weekly close time	-	1	-	-	2
	14(1)	Fishing for or taking salmon during annual close time	-	-	-	1	-
	17(2)(A)	Fishing for or taking trout during close season	2	-	-	-	-
	18(1)(A)	Wilfully taking unclean or unseasonable salmon	-	-	-	2	-
	20	Possessing salmon which have been illegally taken, killed or landed	1	1	-	1	-
	26(1)	Fishing without right; Solway	-	2	-	3	-
	58	Obstruction of constable or water bailiff	-	2	-	-	1
SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (PROTECTION)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1951	1	Fishes for or takes salmon without legal right or written permission	-	-	2	-	-
	7A(1)(B)	Possessing salmon which have been illegally taken, killed or landed	-	-	2	-	-
	13(1)	Fishing for or taking salmon during Sunday	-	-	-	1	-
SCOTLAND ACT 1998 RIVER TWEED	A30(1)	Illegal possession of salmon or trout (or certain items which could be used to take salmon or trout)	-	1	-	-	-
	2006	Various fishing offences	-	-	-	1	-
THE FISH CONSERVATION (FISHING FOR EELS)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008	2	Fishing for or taking eels without licence	-	-	2	-	-
Conservation (protected sites):			-	1	-	-	-
NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004	19(3)	Failure to comply with 13(1) or 16(1) 14(5)(b) or 17(3)(b) (operations by public bodies or owners etc)	-	1	-	-	-
Other wildlife offences:			-	10	11	9	14
THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITATS, &C.) REGULATIONS 1994	39(1)(A)	Deliberately kill or take European protected species	-	-	1	-	-
	39(1)(A/B/C/D)	Deliberately kill, take, disturb, destroy European protected species	-	-	1	-	1
	41(2)	Prohibition of certain methods of killing wild animals	-	-	2	2	-

THE CONTROL OF TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (ENFORCEMENT) REGS 1997	8(1)	Purchase, sale of etc. any specimen of species in Annex A	-	3	1	-	1
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	15(A)	Possession of pesticides	-	2	1	-	-
	18(1)	Attempts to commit any wildlife offence under Part 1 of the Act	-	4	3	7	3
	18(2)	Possession of anything capable of being used for wildlife offences under this part of the Act	-	1	2	-	8
	18A(1)&(2)	Vicarious liability for offence(s) committed by employee or agent	-	-	-	-	1

Source: Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings Database

Table B: People with a charge proved in Scottish Courts for wildlife offences, where main charge, by main penalty

Crime group and legislation	Section of act	Main penalty	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total convictions			37	48	56	60	35
Badgers:			3	1	-	-	2
PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992	3(1)(A)	Monetary	2	-	-	-	-
	3(1)(B)	Monetary	1	-	-	-	-
	11A(1)	Community sentence	-	-	-	-	2
		Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
Birds:		4	12	16	7	6	
WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	1(1)(A)	Custody	-	1	-	-	-
		Community sentence	-	1	3	1	-
		Monetary	2	2	8	4	3
		Other	1	-	1	-	-
	1(1)(C)	Custody	-	-	1	-	-
		Monetary	-	3	-	-	-
	1(2)(A)	Monetary	-	2	-	-	1
	1(2)(B)	Community sentence	-	-	-	1	-
	1(5)(A)	Monetary	-	2	-	-	-
		Other	-	-	2	1	-
	1(5C)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
	5(1)(A)	Monetary	1	-	-	-	-
	5(1)(B)	Custody	-	-	-	-	1
		Monetary	-	-	1	-	-
		Other	-	-	-	-	1
	Cruelty to wild animals:		2	3	7	2	2
WILD MAMMALS (PROTECTION) ACT 1996	1	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	10A(1)	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1
	11(1)(AA)	Community	-	-	-	1	-

		sentence					
		Monetary	1	-	-	1	-
	11(2)(A)	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1
	11(3) & (3B)(A)	Monetary	1	-	-	-	-
	11(G)(1)	Community sentence	-	-	1	-	-
		Monetary	-	2	4	-	-
		Other	-	-	2	-	-
Deer:			3	5	1	4	1
DEER (SCOTLAND) ACT 1996	5(1),5(5) & SCHEDULE 6	Monetary	1	-	1	-	-
	17(1)	Monetary	1	-	-	3	-
		Other	-	1	-	-	-
	17(2)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
	17(3)	Community sentence	-	2	-	1	-
	18(1)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
	22	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1
23(1)	Monetary	1	-	-	-	-	
Hunting with dogs:			3	-	7	5	2
PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002	1(1)	Custody	-	-	-	1	-
		Community sentence	-	-	2	-	-
		Monetary	3	-	2	4	2
		Other	-	-	3	-	-
Poaching and game laws:			4	5	1	-	-
GAME (SCOTLAND) ACT 1832	1	Monetary	2	2	-	-	-
NIGHT POACHING ACT 1828	1	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
		Other	1	2	1	-	-
POACHING PREVENTION ACT 1862	2	Monetary	1	-	-	-	-
Fish poaching:			18	12	16	37	11
FRESHWATER & SALMON FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976	1(8)	Monetary	-	-	-	1	-

SALMON & FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT 1975	27(A)	Other	1	-	-	-	-
SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (CONSOLIDATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003	1(1)(A)(B)&(3)	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1
	1(1)(A)&(B)	Monetary	1	-	3	-	1
	1(2)(A,B,C)&(3)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
	2(1)&(2)	Monetary	4	1	-	-	-
	6(1)&(2)	Community sentence	-	-	1	-	-
		Monetary	3	3	3	11	2
		Other	-	-	-	2	-
	7	Community sentence	-	-	1	-	-
		Monetary	-	1	2	1	-
	9(1)&(2)	Monetary	1	1	1	1	4
		Other	-	-	1	-	2
	11(1)	Monetary	6	-	-	6	-
		Other	-	-	-	6	-
	13(2)&(4)	Monetary	-	-	1	2	-
	13(3)&(4)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
	14(1)	Other	-	-	-	1	-
	17(2)(A)	Other	1	-	-	-	-
	18(1)(A)	Monetary	-	-	-	1	-
		Other	-	-	-	1	-
	20	Monetary	1	1	-	-	-
26(1)	Monetary	-	2	-	2	-	
58	Monetary	-	1	-	-	1	
SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (PROTECTION)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1951	7A(1)(B)	Monetary	-	-	2	-	-
	13(1)	Monetary	-	-	-	1	-
SCOTLAND ACT 1998 (RIVER TWEED)	ORDER 2006	Monetary	-	-	-	1	-
THE FISH CONSERVATION (FISHING FOR EELS)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008	REG 2	Other	-	-	1	-	-

Conservation (protected sites):			-	1	-	-	-
NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004	19(3)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	-
Other wildlife offences:			-	9	8	5	11
THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITATS, &C.) REGULATIONS 1994	39(1)(A)	Monetary	-	-	1	-	-
	39(1)(A/B/C/D)	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1
		Other	-	-	1	-	-
THE CONTROL OF TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (ENFORCEMENT) REGS 1997	41(2)	Monetary	-	-	-	1	-
		Community sentence	-	1	-	-	-
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981	8(1)	Monetary	-	1	-	-	1
		Community sentence	-	1	-	-	-
	15(A)	Monetary	-	2	1	-	-
	18(1)	Community sentence	-	3	-	-	-
		Monetary	-	1	1	3	3
		Other	-	-	2	1	-
	18(2)	Monetary	-	1	2	-	4
	Other	-	-	-	-	1	
18A(1)&(2)	Monetary	-	-	-	-	1	

Source: Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings Database



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