



Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



Submission Deadline: 30 April 2013

1. Darwin Project Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Reference | 19-030 |
| Project Title | Falkland Islands raptors-reducing conflicts with rural livelihoods |
| Host Country/ies | Falkland Islands |
| UK contract holder institution | Falklands Conservation |
| Host country partner institutions | Falklands Conservation |
| Other partner institutions | RZSS, RSPB, Falkland Islands Government, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Wildlife Conservation Society, Raptor Research Centre Boise State University and EDM International Inc. |
| Darwin Grant Value | £178,986 |
| Start/end dates of project | April 2012/March 2015 |
| Reporting period (eg Apr 2012 – Mar 2013) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | April 2012 – March 2013 Annual report 1 |
| Project Leader name | James Fenton |
| Project website | www.falklandsconservation.com |
| Report authors, main contributors and date | Micky Reeves, James Fenton, 30 April 2013 |

2. Project Background

This project seeks to provide a scientific basis for government policy regarding the management of conflicts between the farming community and raptors in the Falkland Islands. Traditionally, there is the perception that raptors are detrimental to sheep farming and historically raptors have been persecuted heavily; this has led to some populations (e.g. striated caracara) being restricted to offshore islands. An output of the project is to produce a species action plan for Falkland raptors, together with a second more detailed action plan for the *Near Threatened* (IUCN) striated caracara *Phalco boenus australis* (the Falklands are the stronghold for the global population of this species). The project encompasses the entire Falkland Islands by working with the resident human population for outreach and awareness, but is focusing the field work on the main breeding sites of raptors, typically offshore islands. The Falkland Islands are the largest archipelago in the southwest Atlantic some 500 km off the coast of South America and situated between 51°S and 53° S and 57°30' W and 61°30' W.

3. Project Partnerships

Falklands Conservation is the lead organisation; a Falkland based charity with offices in Stanley and the United Kingdom. The main collaborating partners within the project are:

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

Dr Keith Bildstein from this organisation has made two visits to the Falklands this year for 3-4 weeks per trip. This collaboration focuses specifically on the study of striated caracara, such as diet, behaviour and their dispersal around the islands. He has also been advising on technical aspects of satellite tracking and equipment to purchase. His second visit coincided with a Project Steering Group meeting which he was able to attend in person.

Boise State University, USA

In conjunction with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Dr Marc Bechard from Boise State University has also visited twice this year for about 2 weeks per trip to coincide with Dr Keith Bildstein's visits. Dr Bechard is an expert on raptors and contributes his experience in the deployment of satellite units on raptors.

Both of the above have contributed in the training of the project officer in the capture and handling of raptors, including placing leg bands on birds, taking blood samples and the deployment of satellite and GPS tracker units.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)

The RZSS initially were to take a more active role in the tracking studies but have taken a back seat in the practical side mainly because the expertise and tracking technology provided by the USA collaborators has surpassed what the RZSS can offer in this area. The RZSS contributed financially by providing extra funding to the project in 2012. RZSS were also to provide a larger role in practical support but due to internal restructuring of their organisation this commitment has since changed. The project officer took the opportunity to meet with relevant RZSS staff in 2012 during a visit to the UK. After discussions and some training during this period it was established the RZSS are still happy to be utilised as a source of advice over the project duration. Hence it is to be expected that their staff input to this project will be less than originally envisaged.

The Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)

To date the main involvement of the RSPB has been in relation to their project investigating the feasibility of mouse eradication from Steeple Jason Island in the period August to September 2012, coordinated by Richard Cuthbert and Clare Stringer (mice are the only introduced mammalian predator on this island). The project officer worked with the RSPB team investigating impacts of aerial baiting on non-target species, and in particular the striated caracara. The RSPB will also be more involved in the future of the project to assist in developing educational and outreach material.

The Wildlife Conservation Society,

As the owners of Steeple Jason, WCS supported the project carrying out research in conjunction with RSPB work. Steeple Jason is one of the main breeding sites for striated caracara in the Falklands. WCS continue to support the project of its research on Steeple Jason.

EMD International Inc., USA

Dr James Dwyer has contributed advice to the project concerning the southern caracara *Caracara plancus* and planning for his visit to the Falklands in the future is underway.

Falkland Islands Government

The Department of Agriculture has been supportive to the project, was represented on the interview panel for the project officer and is on the Steering Group. Although it is expected that the good working relationship with this department will continue, there are on-going staff changes so that continuity of a key individual's involvement will not be maintained.

The Environmental Planning Department, also on the Steering Group, continues to be very supportive and has provided additional income to the project.

Rural Business Association

Richard Stevens of the Rural Business Association continues to be involved with the project. He was on the interview panel for the project officer and is their representative on the Steering Group.

4. Project Progress

See Annex 1.

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

See Annex 1, but main progress summary:

- 1) Questionnaires disseminated and collated for perception of raptors in farming community.
- 2) Field observations of raptor/sheep interactions during lambing periods in spring 2012.
- 3) Winter ecology of *Phalcoboenus australis*: investigating diet and dispersal on sheep and non-sheep islands.
- 4) 300+ individual *Phalcoboenus australis* leg banded (in conjunction with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) at three offshore islands.
- 5) Breeding surveys and GIS mapping complete for 3 offshore islands.
- 6) Dissemination of materials to local community through a variety of media outlets.

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

See Annex 1.

4.3 Standard Measures

These numbers relate to comments generated by table 1.

- 2 This output for the Falkland project officer is not expected as recruitment was made to employ a local Falkland born candidate rather than an overseas academic candidate for the best outcome of working within the rural Falkland community. However it may still be an output through the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for a USA graduate.
- 4A The project officer, although not a graduate has received professional training within the project. An undergraduate from the USA may be trained under Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

- 4B Project officer was trained in field skills and sampling techniques through Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, RZSS and Boise State University.
- 4C See the comments on 2.
- 4D Not sure if this is a duplicate of 4B?
- 6A One local resident volunteer (starting an undergraduate degree in biological sciences in New Zealand this year) was trained in handling and capture techniques and blood sampling. Expected that 50 children (7-14 years age) educated through project, however this was not achieved in Yr. 1 and will be anticipated for Yr. 2.
- 7 Training material will be incorporated with educational material with RSPB output later in project.
8. 10 weeks of USA project staff spent in host country. (See explanation in section 3. Project Partnerships)
- 11A See list of publications in Annex 3 which are not directly an output of this project but an output of the earlier Darwin scoping project for the Raptor Project and from other collaborators in association with the project.
- 16A 2 articles in the FC newsletter produced in first year as this deemed sufficient for the readership and expected awareness locally. More newsletters for collaborating bodies will be expected.
- 16C. 450 FC members UK based receive the bi-annual FC magazine and newsletters, however wider readership is also expected.
- 17B FC website and Facebook page.
- 18A & C, 19A & C. There is only one Falkland radio and TV service, so no distinction between national and local bodies. No radio or TV features have been completed yet. The Falklands is a small community and the amount of dissemination through other media (newspaper, newsletters etc.) has been deemed sufficient for the first year. A careful balance between useful and carefully timed awareness and swamping the community with too much awareness needs to be considered.

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Year 4 Total | Total to date | Number planned for reporting period | Total planned during the project |
|-------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Established codes | | | | | | | | |
| 1A | Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country) | n/a | | | | | n/a | 0 |
| 1B | Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country) | n/a | | | | | n/a | 0 |
| 2 | Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc.) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above) | n/a | | | | | n/a | 0 |
| 4A | Number of undergraduate students to receive training | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1-2 |
| 4B | Number of training weeks to be provided | 6 | | | | | 6 | 8-10 |
| 4C | Number of postgraduate students to receive training | 0 | | | | | 1 | 2 |

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Year 4 Total | Total to date | Number planned for reporting period | Total planned during the project |
|----------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4D | Number of training weeks to be provided | 0 | | | | | 0 | 18-20 |
| 5 | Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 6A | Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above) | 1 | | | | | 50 | 100+ |
| 6B | Number of training weeks to be provided | ? | | | | | Is this duplicated? | 1-2 |
| 7 | Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country | 0 | | | | | 0 | 3 |
| 8 | Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country | 10 (USA) | | | | | 10 | 24 |
| 9 | Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 10 | Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 11A | Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals | 0 | | | | | 0 | 3 |
| 11B | Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals | 0 | | | | | 0 | 3 |
| 12A | Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 12B | Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 13A | Number of species reference collections to be established and handed over to host country(ies) | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 13B | Number of species reference collections to be enhanced and handed over to host country(ies) | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Year 4 Total | Total to date | Number planned for reporting period | Total planned during the project |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14A | Number of conferences/ seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/ disseminate findings | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 14B | Number of conferences/ seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated. | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 15A | Number of national press releases in host country(ies) | 2 | | | | | 2 | 8 |
| 15B | Number of local press releases in host country(ies) | 2 | | | | | 2 | 8 |
| 15C | Number of national press releases in UK | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 15D | Number of local press releases in UK | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 16A | Number of newsletters to be produced | 2 | | | | | 6 | 18 |
| 16B | Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies) | 100+ | | | | | 100+ | 100+ |
| 16C | Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK | 450+ | | | | | 500+ | 500+ |
| 17A | Number of dissemination networks to be established | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 17B | Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended | 2 | | | | | 2 | 4 |
| 18A | Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies) | 0 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 18B | Number of national TV programmes/features in UK | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 18C | Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies) | 0 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 18D | Number of local TV programmes/features in UK | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 19A | Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies) | 0 | | | | | 2 | 6-8 |
| 19B | Number of national radio interviews/features in UK | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 19C | Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 8 |
| 19D | Number of local radio interviews/features in UK | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 20 | Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies) | | | | | | | 18,000 |
| 21 | Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased | n/a | | | | | 0 | 0 |

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Year 4 Total | Total to date | Number planned for reporting period | Total planned during the project |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 22 | Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 23 | Value of cash resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work | | | | | | | 25,800 |

Table 2 Publications

| Type (eg journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (title, author, year) | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (eg contact address, website) | Cost £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------|
| none | | | | |

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

This first year much of the progress which has been made, particularly in the collection of data, has focused on the striated caracara. Good progress has been achieved with survey and questionnaire collation from the rural community on perceptions of raptors. Field research has been concentrated on the striated caracara, as this is the priority raptor species (internationally very rare) where we need to establish baseline data. A previous investigation on the Falkland turkey vulture through Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (2006-08) established baseline data for this species which resulted in government policy implementations (e.g. re-evaluation of culling licences). It was felt through discussion with stakeholders that it was not beneficial to repeat data collection for the turkey vulture which would take valuable time away from the project and be unlikely to change the current government policies. The current work plan focusing on striated caracara may bias the project indicators and may show an under-representation of work outputs expected on the other Falkland raptors.

4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

Although the project is in its early stages there have been some direct and positive changes in the progress and dialogue with the rural community. Raptor conflicts with livestock are a deep-rooted issue that has been based on perception and attitudes rather than scientific evidence; however that is now being dissected in an open forum. For example the questionnaires that were sent to the rural community has allowed people to question their own perceptions on raptors – something that would be difficult to talk face to face about with many individuals and has allowed people to broach the subject in a more open and amicable manner. The Falkland rural community has for many generations followed on from grandfather, to father to son in tradition and so changes will be expected to be slow. Needless to say the project has started the ball rolling for people to take part in open debates and challenging the more traditional beliefs. The leg-banding programme of the striated caracara has also indirectly made the birds more “accessible”. It has allowed farmers, landowners as well as individuals to view the raptors on a personal level which has created the opportunity for people to start perceiving the birds in their ecological sense, rather than in a more traditional conflict sense. The next stages of the

project will involve workshops and seminars where the rural community can discuss and debate the issues regarding raptors and livestock. It is hoped that the community members that are sympathetic to the raptors, and who understand how livestock management issues has a bearing on the level of predation, will begin to challenge the more wide held traditional perceptions.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Overall project direction is set by the original contract and is overseen by a Steering Group which comprises representatives from Falklands Conservation, FIG Agricultural and Environmental Planning Departments, Rural Business Association and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. To-date the Steering Group are happy with project progress in relation to the agreed outcomes.

Project action is determined by the programme given in the original project application and the project officer bases his work plan on this. Day-to-day progress is monitored by discussion between the project officer (Micky Reeves), the project manager (James Fenton) and other FC conservation staff; they are based in the same office and regularly discuss issues and problems as they arise. Additionally, Keith Bildstein of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has been particularly helpful in advising on the technical aspects of bird population survey and has also been mentoring the project officer.

In practice the project has not yet run a full year and it is only now, with the need for the annual report, that a full stock-take of progress has been undertaken. Achievement is measured by various means: for example, interaction with the farming community can be measured by the number of returned questionnaires; the 43% return indicates that there is not yet full communication with the farming community, and that more face-to-face discussion with farmers is needed. Changing attitudes is a long-term process, and it may well be hard to quantify how much attitudes are changing over the relatively short length of a 3-year project. Achievement in relation to species population monitoring is easier to assess: for example, the numbers of birds banded in relation to the total population can be quantified, and the re-finding of banded birds can be used to assess population movement.

Financial monitoring is carried out through Falkland Conservation's own accounting system, with monthly reports on income and expenditure available to the project officer. Overall financial control is overseen by James Fenton (FC's CEO) and ultimately during the annual audit by Wilkins Kennedy.

One lesson learnt from this year's work is that trying to carry out population studies on three species at the same time with one project officer was probably overly ambitious. As stated below, previous survey of turkey vultures mean that less effort needs to be directed towards this species. Southern caracaras are not seen as such of a problem as striated caracaras, and this species is also common in South America. It is the striated caracara, for which the Falklands hold a large percentage of the world's population and which have a bad reputation amongst farmers, where the research effort is currently being focused. And this research will feed directly into the national action plan for this species which is a major project output.

Another lesson learnt is that technology moves on quickly, resulting in delayed purchase of satellite trackers to ensure that we get the most suitable type.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

This is the project's first annual report.

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project design has taken a slight change in that the focus has been predominantly on striated caracaras rather than equally focusing on the three raptor species (striated & southern caracara and turkey vulture). At the beginning of the project it was discussed in detail with Dr Keith Bildstien and the RZSS. The conclusion was that turkey vultures were recently investigated under Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 2006-2008 resulting in substantial new information on population trends and government culling policies for landowners and farmers. It was felt that the project should not repeat this work as it would not significantly draw any new conclusions. Work on southern caracara was felt to be important if time permitted, which in the first year has been difficult due to the data collection focusing on striated caracara. It is envisaged that in year two discussions about conflicts and policy will involve all three raptor species during the upcoming workshops at the annual Farmers' Week. However the ecological data collection aspect of the turkey vulture and southern caracara, although desirable, will for time-planning purposes be secondary in importance to the striated caracara. Filling in comprehensive and thorough data gaps for ecology, population and dispersal for all three raptor species may not be completed within the three years of this project, but will certainly highlight the most critical aspects and produce recommendations for future studies and this will be addressed in the Falkland Islands Raptor Action Plan.

8. Sustainability

The first year of the project has resulted in a wider acceptance and ease of discussions on raptors within the Falkland Islands through the promotion of the work by various media and forms. Interestingly, Facebook has been a great medium to facilitate this as it allows a social networking platform for rural and isolated communities in the Falklands. More work to develop this and involving a greater number of the community is planned. The leg banding work on the striated caracara has proved to be beneficial in increasing interest through this project. It has generated interest from a diverse group of people from landowners of the islands where the birds have been banded, neighbouring island group landowners and residents, military based personnel, visitors and tourists to the island, other scientific researchers, photographers and local residents. It has evoked and stimulated discussion and interest in the raptors ecology and will allow an easier transition in discussions and workshops when the conflict, policy and legislation aspects are discussed. The banding programme is expected to help sustain the project interest in the medium to long-term. It is envisaged that outputs not achieved or accomplished within the time frame of this project will be generated and acted upon for further study as the momentum and sustainability of this project grows.

As the project still has two years to run, it is too early to develop a formal exit strategy: such a strategy will be formalised in the final year of the project, when the action plans are being developed and future action being determined,

9. Dissemination

Summary of dissemination in the last year:

- 2 FC newsletter articles (FC local and UK members)
- 1 FC website article (global audience)
- 2 FC magazine articles (FC local and UK members)
- 1 FC leaflet for public dissemination (local community audience)
- 1 presentation at the military base (military audience)

- 1 article in the Department of Agriculture's farming newsletter (Wool Press) (farming community)
- Posters and presentation at the annual Farmers Week.
- 2 articles in the national newspaper (Falkland wide audience)

Dissemination audiences still to include:

- Falkland Conservations members group (Watch Group) (50 members aged 7-14 yrs).
- The Falkland Islands Community School (ages 11-16 yrs)
- The Falkland Islands Infant and Junior School (ages 4 -11 yrs)
- Camp Education (teaching network for the rural community) (all ages)
- Falkland Islands Radio Services
- Falkland Island Television Services

For effective dissemination of educational material for the schools it is planned to involve FC's Watch Group Leader, Community Science Officer, local school teachers and the RSPB who have a wealth of relevant experience in this area. It is too early to state how funding will be implemented for outreach after the project end, but it is likely to be integrated within FC's core funding for educational outreach and community involvement.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013)

| Item | Budget | Expenditure | Variance/ Comments |
|---|--------|-------------|---|
| Staff costs specified by individual Project officer Administration officer CEO UKCEO Education officer | | | Late start of project officer |
| Overhead costs | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | Surplus moved to trackers by agreement. Outstanding bills for March still to be added. |
| Operating costs Data download | | | Data download costs paid for next 2 years. |
| Capital items/equipment (specify) Satellite trackers Vehicle Darwin | | | £5000 moved from travel, by agreement. Note that the £XXX vehicle costs are the Darwin contribution to a vehicle for the project; other contributions from RZSS and FC |
| Others: Consultancy | | | |
| Others (please specify) | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2012-2013

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources | | ON-GOING | |
| <p>Purpose To provide a scientific basis for government policy regarding management of conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods in the Falkland Islands.</p> | Tracking logs, behavioural obs. #s of publications. Government changes, adapts, or enacts policies to reduce conflict between raptors and livelihoods. | See below | See below |
| <p>Output 1. Advance understanding of Falklands' raptors' biology, ecology, biogeography, and behaviour in relation to rural livelihoods.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census of target species. • GIS database of predatory bird distribution/movements populated. <p>Research papers: demographics, distribution, livelihood interactions.</p> | See below | |
| <p>Activity 1.1 Comprehensive surveys of rural (camp) residents to establish patterns of interactions between raptors and livelihood activities, including sheep farming.</p> | | Surveys on raptors and rural livelihood interactions sent out to all rural stakeholders with a 43% return. Data from this has been collated, however has not yet been put into any document. | Disseminate the results to the rural farming community and other local stakeholders. |
| <p>Activity 1.2, Assessment of past, current and potential economic impacts associated with raptor – livelihood conflicts.</p> | | Very little data exists to support past impact assessment, current impacts can be assessed by the results from the above questionnaire. | Check existing FIG documentation and archives and to develop a current economic impact assessment but quantifying sheep losses with other factors such as weather, ditches etc. |

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|--|---|---|
| Activity 1.3 Census of Striated Caracara and Southern Caracara populations. | | Comprehensive breeding surveys of striated caracara completed on three offshore islands which hold important portions of the Falklands total population. | Continuation of breeding striated caracara surveys on other offshore islands. Censuses of numbers of individual southern caracaras attending farms planned for upcoming winter and spring months. |
| Activity 1.4 Establish and populate GIS database of raptor distribution and abundance across the Falkland Islands. | | Data on breeding locations (above) analysed in ARC GIS and maps produced for the landowners | Contract a local expert to set up a database for all GIS data for the project. Continue producing GIS maps for other island breeding surveys. |
| Activity 1.5 Investigate seasonal and spatial variation of raptor behaviour, biology, ecology in the presence and absence of livestock. | | Work on diet and behaviour and dispersal of striated caracara has been carried out at Saunders Island (farms sheep) during winter 2012 and summer 2012/13 and Steeple Jason (no sheep) during winter 2012. | Expected winter diet survey of striated caracara at New Island (no sheep) this winter. Expected repeat visit to Saunders Island (farm sheep) this winter. |
| Activity 1.6 Disseminate project outcomes through peer-reviewed journals, project network websites, and conference presentations. | | Collaborator Dr Bildstein along with Kalinka Rexer-Huber published a paper in 2012. Winter diet of striated caracara <i>Phalcoboenus australis</i> at a farm settlement on the Falkland Islands. Not been able to disseminate on host website (FC) due to site being down for redesign of webpage. | Dr Bildstein expected to attend the Raptor Research Foundation Annual Conference 2013 in Bariloche, Argentina. |
| Output 2. Raise public awareness and understanding of the ecological role of raptors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4+ community seminars. • 4+ presentations at schools. • Opportunities to help w/ research. Project publicity in local media. | | |

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| Activity 2.1. Comprehensive survey of rural (camp) residents to establish current understanding of rural perspectives and concerns. | | See Activity 1.1. | One to one interviews with farming stakeholders are planned to take place during the upcoming Falklands winter (quieter period for farmers). |
| Activity 2.2. Interviews with stakeholder groups to establish societal understanding of raptors, and what concerns people might have about raptor management. | | Several one to one interviews with farming stakeholders have been conducted. | Workshop involving the main stakeholders (e.g. farming community, Dept. of Agriculture & Environment, FC) is planned for July 2013 to coincide with the annual Farmers Week held in Stanley. |
| Activity 2.3 Host public presentations/seminars regarding raptor ecology and project objectives. | | A presentation to British Military Base on Falklands and their conservation group to help collect sighting data. Dr Bildstein gives regular presentations at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary to the public. | One presentation planned for the local Falkland community in summer 2013/14. One seminar planned for the farming community in July 2013. |
| Activity 2.4 Develop outreach materials that address common perceptions about raptors, and provide information on the role of raptors within the ecosystem. | | A leaflet outlining Falkland raptors has been produced and disseminated locally. | On-going, to include the local community, schools and youth groups. RSPB to be involved. |
| Activity 2.5 Establish framework for individuals to report raptor observations. | | Project details and contact has been well advertised within the Falklands in the local newspaper, farming and FC newsletters, social networking sites, tourist lodges, and the military base. This serves very well for a small community and project officer is now well known for the role making it easy for people to approach in a personal manner. | Planned to create a blog on FC website (site is recently now up and running) as well as a dedicated raptor page on social networking (i.e. Facebook). This works extremely well for the remote nature of the Falklands' rural community and is increasingly being recognised as playing an important role in establishing an effective framework for isolated communities. |

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|--|--|--|
| Activity 2.6 Engage local people in raptor research, and highlight opportunities for people to follow project progress through local media. | | Falklands Conservation has a pool of volunteers that live both in the rural community and Stanley. At least one volunteer is taken on each field trip. Progress of the project is available on both FC's web site and Facebook page. From time to time progress is reported in the local farming newsletter (The Wool Press). | Further social media development is planned (see above). Falklands Conservation are planning to have a regular monthly slot on the local radio, this will include updates and discussions on the project. |
| Output 3. Species Action Plan for Striated Caracara. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striated Caracara workshop. • FIG policies support Conservation of Striated Caracara. | | |
| 3.1 Complete comparative winter ecology study of Striated Caracara in the presence/absence of sheep farming. | | See 1.5 | See 1.5 |
| 3.2 Monitor distribution, foraging, and breeding sites of Striated Caracara and summarise in relation to historical distribution/population. | | The project in conjunction with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has leg banded over 300 striated caracara individuals each with unique identifying bands between 2011 and March 2013. Diet: Winter diet samples collected from Steeple Jason in Aug 2012 and pellet analysis in progress. Breeding surveys see 1.3. Population trends being analysed with FC reports from the last breeding surveys in 2006. | Continuation of leg banding will be on-going with emphasis over the next summer season. Deployment of six long term satellite trackers expected Aug 2013. Winter diet analyses scheduled at New Island and Saunders Island for May 2013. Surveys of breeding pairs on-going at other offshore islands expected to be conducted next summer season. |
| 3.3 Collate and summarise perspectives on Striated Caracara from stakeholder interviews. | | See 1.1 | See 1.1 |
| 3.4 Host Striated Caracara workshop. | | See 2.2. | See 2.2 |
| 3.5 Draft Striated Caracara Action Plan including funding strategy. | | Progression will start on the expected outputs of the above sections 1.1 – 3.4 | Progression will start on the expected outputs of the above sections 1.1 – 3.4 |

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|---|--|--|
| 3.6 Community consultations regarding draft action plan, revisions, and submission to FIG for approval. | | Progression will start on the expected outputs of the above sections 1.1 – 3.4 | Progression will start on the expected outputs of the above sections 1.1 – 3.4 |
| Output 4. National Plan of Action for managing conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory workshop regarding impact of raptors on livelihoods. • FIG policies support conservation of raptors. | | |
| 4.1 Collate and summarise stakeholder perspectives regarding conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods. | | Stakeholder perspectives have been collated for period 2010 - 2012 | n/a |
| 4.2 Conduct an economic valuation of raptor impacts upon rural livelihoods (positive and negative). | | This is on-going based on results of 4.1 and 2.2 | n/a |
| 4.3 Host workshop to summarise key issues, and incorporate full spectrum of perspectives within National Plan of Action. | | Outputs 2.2 and 4.1 and 4.2 will feed into larger strategy for NPA scheduled for action in 2014. | n/a |
| 4.4 Draft “ <i>National Plan of Action</i> ” and undertake public consultation of draft document. | | Action based on 4.3 and expected to start in 2014. | n/a |
| 4.5 Revise “ <i>National Plan of Action</i> ” and present to Environment Committee for endorsement and submission to Executive Council. | | Action based on 4.4 and expected in 2014. | n/a |

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|--|--|--|
| Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources. | | | |
| Sub-Goal: Improved knowledge and protection of raptors, including a reduction of conflicts with human livelihoods in the Falkland Islands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' perceived livestock conflicts with raptors. Annual requests (#) for raptor destruction permits. | 1. Data from lambing death surveys. Landowner attitude surveys. 2. Destruction permits data from Environmental Planning Department. | |
| Purpose To provide a scientific basis for government policy regarding management of conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods in the Falkland Islands. | Tracking logs, behavioural obs. #s of publications. Government changes, adapts, or enacts policies to reduce conflict between raptors and livelihoods. | Project reports, citations of publications. <i>Species Action Plan – Striated Caracara; National Plan of Action – Managing conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods</i> published | Landowners participate; allow access to land for research purposes. Ongoing government and institutional support in the Falklands and overseas. Project personnel publish research and draft policies within project timeline. |
| Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary) 1. Advance understanding of Falklands' raptors' biology, ecology, biogeography, and behaviour in relation to agricultural livelihoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census of target species. GIS database of predatory bird distribution/movements populated. Research papers: demographics, distribution, livelihood interactions. | Report of species populations and distributions. Peer reviewed manuscripts appear in raptor research, conservation, and wildlife management journals. | Tracking technology remains effective, technical support for establishing GIS database. Project partners maintain commitment to project schedule. |
| 2. Raise public awareness and understanding of the ecological role of raptors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4+ community seminars. 4+ presentations at schools. Opportunities to help w/ research. Project publicity in local media. | Attendance lists, reports, transcripts. Public surveys before/after project. Reports/presentations available on FC website. Media appearances. Influence on government policy. | Farmers and members of public willing to participate in attitude surveys at onset and completion of project. Public interested to improve knowledge. |
| 3. Species Action Plan for Striated Caracara. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Striated Caracara workshop. FIG policies support Conservation of Striated Caracara. | Report of workshop. <i>Species Action Plan for Striated Caracara</i> published and endorsed by FIG. | Methods trialed in Challenge Fund project continue to be successful. Political support of Species Action Plan. |
| 4. National Plan of Action for managing conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory workshop regarding impact of raptors on livelihoods. FIG policies support conservation of raptors. | <i>National Plan of Action – Managing conflicts between raptors and rural livelihoods</i> published and endorsed. | Research supports alternative management practices for raptor – livelihood interactions. Government and community willing to consider adjustments to policy. |

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

Investigating striated caracaras in winter on Steeple Jason

Jonathan Meiburg describes observations and findings from a winter trip to an important summer breeding island for this charismatic bird of prey.



The Steinhilber Research Station on Steeple Jason. We are grateful to the island owners, the Wildlife Conservation Society, for allowing us to stay in this well-equipped station. Sarah Bennett

As part of Falklands Conservation's raptor project, Robin Woods, David Galloway and I, working with Micky Reeves, FC Raptor Officer, and RSPB researchers spent August 2012 on Steeple Jason as part of the Darwin Initiative-funded project 'Falkland Islands raptors – reducing conflicts with rural livelihoods'.

Robin and I were members of the FC surveys of breeding striated caracaras in the summers of 1997/98 and 2006, but this trip was something new – an opportunity to study these unusual, near-threatened Falkland raptors in winter on one of their most important summer breeding islands. This time, the goal was to survey the island's population of striated caracaras, to band and genetically sample individual birds, to investigate their use of available food resources and, with the RSPB research team, to test potential medicines as an attempt at eradicating mites with cereal baits.

Before we arrived, we were not certain whether there would be any striated caracaras on Steeple Jason since most of the southern winter eggs and young appear to provide much of striated

caracaras' summer diet (black-browed albatrosses, herring gulls, and rockhopper and Magellanic penguins) remain at sea in winter. Our summer counts in 1997 and 2006 on Steeple recorded 68 and 63 pairs respectively and an estimated 100 non-breeding adults and younger birds – a large population of raptors for a 750 ha island. It seemed unlikely that Steeple could support similar numbers of striated caracaras in the absence of the seabirds.

We were surprised, then, to find about as many striated caracaras on Steeple in August as we had seen in earlier summers. Multiple counts produced an estimate of 250 birds on the western half of



Yellow-billed cuckoo sitting on a decomposed magpie. Steve Baines

the island, of which 136 (54%) were adults (4+ years in age), 33 (13%) were 'sub-adults' (~2 to 4 years), and 81 (33%) were first-winter birds, we counted an additional 10 adult pairs on the eastern half of the island. Our observations suggest their population could remain fairly stable year-round, though the smaller proportion of sub-adult birds suggests a high rate of emigration and/or mortality among this age group.

Understanding diet in winter

What were all these birds eating? Their distribution provided a clue. In the summer, most were distributed in territorial adult pairs or roving 'gangs' of non-breeders around the albatross colony on Steeple Jason's south-east-facing slopes. This winter, however, we found only a few pairs near the vacant albatross colony, while a large group gathered on the north-east-facing slopes near the field station, digging and scratching in the peaty soil with their powerful talons. These birds were foraging for invertebrates, including beetle grubs and earthworms, and their strength and industry were remarkable; they had excavated large patches of tussac peat mould in the sheep's sordid uplope from the remaining coastal tussock grass. These raking striated caracaras were often accompanied by tussacbirds, sifting through the disturbed clumps of peat and roots torn up by the caracaras. We are still analysing 120 freshly regurgitated pellets collected from 17 separate roosts, but many of them appear to be composed primarily of peat and earth, plant fibres, and the mouth parts of beetle grubs, suggesting that soil invertebrates are an important part of striated caracaras' winter diet on Steeple Jason.

The pellets also contained evidence of other animal food sources – penguin and goose feathers, and fur from sea lions or fur seals. Gentoo penguins gather at their colonies on Steeple Jason throughout the winter in groups that range in size from tens to



Robin and David digging for invertebrates alongside foraging striated caracaras. Jonathan Meiburg



Beetle grubs are a favourite prey item for striated caracaras. Jonathan Meiburg



Young birds cleaning the carcass of a gentoo penguin. Andy Starvoorth



Striated caracaras foraging for invertebrates in the peaty soil. Andy Starvoorth



Banding and genetic sampling with Keith Bildstein. Jonathan has just taken a blood sample from the bird. Jonathan Meiburg

several thousands of birds, and upland and ruddy-headed geese remain on the island year-round, as do southern sea lions and fur seals. We did not observe striated caracaras attacking geese, penguins or sea lions, but we did see them cleaning fresh carcasses of penguins and geese and up to 50 striated caracaras at any one time were observed over a few days feeding on an old sea lion carcass in a gully near the field station. These occasional 'bonanzas' of carrion almost certainly play a significant role in sustaining the striated caracaras population.

Genetic sampling – new for Steeple Jason

Keith Bildstein, from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania, USA, is working with Falklands Conservation as a collaborator on the raptor work, and he accompanied us in the first week of our study in conjunction with his own research on Saunders and Caracaras islands. Under Keith's supervision, we banded and genetically sampled 70 striated caracaras – the first time this had been attempted on Steeple Jason. We gathered more



Micky photographing a group of striated caracaras feeding on the remains of a southern sea lion. Jonathan Meiburg

Raptor project update

The Darwin Initiative Falkland Islands raptors – reducing conflicts with rural livelihoods' project has now been under way for 18 months. As the title suggests, part of the project's aim is to record the effects that four species (striated caracara, southern caracara, tawny vulture and southern giant petrel) have on rural livelihoods (sheep farming) in the Falklands and to develop an action plan to reduce conflicts. Questionnaires were sent to all landowners, with very good responses, and September and October were spent in the field observing lambing.

Another objective of the project is looking at the birds' behaviour, especially their movements around the Falklands and how they survive the winter when their summer food sources (seabirds) have left to forage at sea. Working in conjunction with Keith Bildstein from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in the United States, we are satellite tracking and leg-banding striated caracaras at three locations: Saunders Island, Caracaras Island and Steeple Jason. We are using uniquely coloured bands for each island population (yellow for Saunders, white for Caracaras, and black for Steeple Jason) to learn about their movements from observational efforts. So far we have had reports from landowners, the public, and FC staff of Saunders-banded birds appearing on Steeple Jason, Caracaras Island and Pebble Island, and a bird banded on Steeple Jason was seen at Dunbar.

In conjunction with the banding programme, we will be deploying satellite trackers on individual birds to give us finer details of their movements over a certain period of time. During January 2013 the raptor project also banded a small number of striated caracara chicks at the nest. They were given a plain white band on the opposite leg from the numbered band; this will easily identify them as this year's chicks from Caracaras. The banding of chicks will help us to learn whether birds return to their natal areas and how long they live in the wild. We also used time-lapse cameras to record chick provisioning, a non-invasive way for us to learn more about caracaras during their breeding period.

Catching and handling wild raptors is usually challenging, but not so with striated caracaras. Due to the curious nature of these birds, once caught and banded many go straight back to the baited traps; and get caught all over again!

If you see a striated caracara (Johnny rock) wearing a band please note the colour of the band, its letter and number, and send the information, along with the date and location, via Falklands Conservation's Facebook page or email raptors@conservation.org.uk.

I would like to thank all the landowners of these islands for their invaluable help in this important work and the people who have been sending in sightings of banded birds.

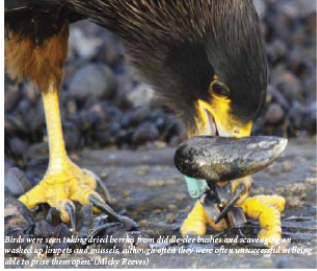
Micky Reeves, Raptor Project Officer

Two articles in Wildlife Conservation in the Falkland Islands magazine issue #18.

Investigating the winter diet of Striated Caracara at Saunders Island

At the Falkland Islands striated caracaras predominantly inhabit offshore islands that support large colonies of seabirds and seals which make up most of their diet. However by the end of the

summer most seabirds and seals have departed the islands, and some caracaras may travel to farm settlements where food associated with human activity is more dependable.



Striated Caracara surveys on Steeple Jason Island and understanding the effects of potential mouse eradication work. Jacobus Melburg, Robin Woods, David Galloway

Post FC-led surveys of striated caracaras on Steeple Jason in the summer of 1997 and 2006 focused on counting breeding pairs on the island, one of the most important breeding sites for this near-threatened species in the Falklands. These surveys found a population of 60-70 breeding pairs and a similar number of non-breeding birds. The winter population of the island remained uncertain, however, especially since some of the caracaras' most important summer food resources (albatrosses, small burrowing petrels, and inshore gull pringling) were absent from Steeple Jason in winter.

As it turned out, we observed enough striated caracaras of all ages to suggest that the summer population may remain on the island year-round. Our counts produced an estimate of 150 individuals: adults (58%), sub-adults (13%), and first-year birds (29%). For food, these birds appeared to rely at least in part on molluscs, especially belemnite gulls and earthworms, for which we saw groups of

up to fifty caracaras at a time searching in the ground like chickens. This diet was supplemented by occasional "bonanzas" of certain caracaras stripped the carcass of a dead young male sea lion down to a skeleton, for example, within about 36 hours, and made short work of injured and dead upland gulls and gannet penguins, though we did not see them attacking healthy birds.

Striated caracaras were also, unfortunately, fond of the mouse toxin's non-toxic dye-marked test baits of severely birds that we banded for present and future study. We observed eighteen of these eating bait or leaving droppings streaked with ham-bun psychedelic dye. This direct consumption of the test bait, combined with the risk of secondary poisoning from eating upland gulls (which also consumed the test bait) suggests to us that any effort to eradicate mice on Steeple Jason with toxic baits should proceed with extreme caution, and include preventative measures to avoid harming striated caracaras.

A recent paper in *Polar Biology* by Kallinka Rezer-Huber and Keith Biddstein describes the diet of striated caracaras at Saunders Island in the winter 2011. The study found the diet consisted mostly of remains of caracaras from native geese which occurred in 92% of all pellets and also a high percentage of vegetative material. Other food items discovered in the diet included: tree lerp and algae, lobster larva, crab, wewills and beetles, and moss and seeds. Interestingly, the remains of rodents, which occur on Saunders Island, were not found in any of the pellets.

The birds typically fed in groups of 2-15 individuals and appeared food-stressed over the winter months; thus when food became available it was feverishly and competitively fought over. The study highlights the differences between the rich summer diet from a marine source of mainly seabirds and seals, to that of a terrestrial diet on geese and mammalian caracaras and vegetation over the winter. Understanding diet will help us to better manage potential rodent eradication on islands supporting populations of striated caracaras (see article below).



Striated caracaras with a full crop of food - this acts to store and maximize food consumption. (Micky Reeves)

We must thank Dr Keith Biddstein of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for assisting us with banding and study design, the Darwin Initiative for partial funding of this research through FC's Raptor Project, and the FC-NSPFF mouse team for advice and support during this interesting and productive month. We also would like to thank the Wildlife Conservation Society for the opportunity to work on Steeple Jason and Rob McGill and Michael Clarke.

Following the island hopping striated caracaras at the north-west islands. By Micky Reeves



The Darwin Initiative Falkland Islands raptors - reducing conflicts with rural livelihoods project has now been under way for eight months. As the title suggests part of the project is recording the effects that raptors (striated caracaras, southern caracaras, tawny vulture and southern giant petrel) in the Falklands have on rural livelihoods (sheep farming) and develop an action plan to reduce conflicts. Questionnaires were sent out to all landowners with very good responses and September and October were spent in the field observing banding.

Another objective of the project is looking at the birds' behaviour; their movements around the Falklands and how they survive the winter when their main food sources (seabirds) have left.

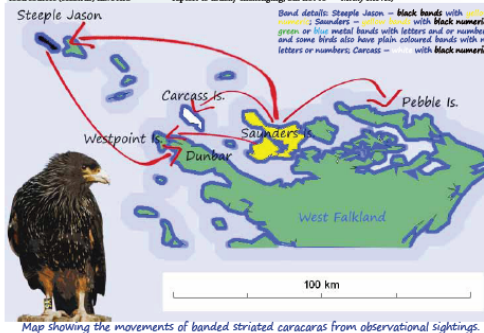
Working in conjunction with Dr Keith Biddstein from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in the United States we are satellite tracking and leg banding striated caracaras at Saunders Is, Caracaras Is and Steeple Jason.

Using a unique coloured band for each island population we are hoping to get an idea of their movements from observational efforts. For instance, so far we have had reports from landowners, the public and FC staff of birds banded on Saunders Island at Steeple Jason, Caracaras Island and Pebble Island (see the map below). In conjunction, satellite trackers will be deployed to give us finer details of individual bird movements over a certain period of time. Catching and handling wild raptors is usually challenging, but not so

with striated caracaras. Due to the curious nature of these birds, once caught and banded many go straight back to the baited traps and get caught all over again! If you see a striated caracaras (Johnny rook) with a band on please note colour, letter and number on the band. Send the information via our facebook page or email raptors@conservation.org.uk.

I would like to give a big thank you to the landowners of these islands for their invaluable help in this important work and the people so far who have been sending in sightings of banded birds.

(Photo above - Bait trapping to catch and band striated caracaras at Steeple Jason. Micky Reeves)



Map showing the movements of banded striated caracaras from observational sightings.

FC Newsletter Summer 2012/13.

Project Objectives

Falklands conservation and its partners aim to improve management and conservation status of raptors in the Falkland Islands through scientific study, community engagement and education and provide policy makers with clear recommendations that balance livelihood concerns with conservation objectives.

- Monitoring and observation of Falkland Islands raptors and their interactions with Falklands Camp landowners.
- Create a national plan of action for managing conflicts between raptors and Falklands Camp landowners.
- Raise public awareness and understanding of the ecological role of the raptor.
- Species Action Plan for Striated Caracara.
- Development of a local conservation Project Officer.

This project aims to ensure that the Falkland Islands are supporting worldwide conventions on protecting raptors:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

Research partners

Lead partner:
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)
www.rzss.org.uk

The Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)
www.rspb.org.uk

Falkland Islands Government: Environmental Planning Department
<http://www.epd.gov.fk>
Department of Agriculture
<http://www.agriculture.gov.fk>

Falkland Islands Rural Business Association (RBA)

CONTACT US: Project officer - M. Reeves
FALKLAND CONSERVATION
Jubilee Villas Office
41 Boss Road
Stanley
Telephone: 22247
www.falklandsconservation.org

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Registered Office: 14 East Hatley, Sandy

Falkland Islands' Raptors

GET INVOLVED WITH CONSERVATION RESEARCH!

Record your observations of Falkland Island's raptors & return them to Falklands Conservation.

Project details

Three species of raptor are currently involved in this study. Reports by Camp landowners of livestock harassment and predation causing economic loss is an area of concern.

Understanding the extent of these interactions is essential to building an effective and environmentally responsible management strategy.

This project is tasked with studying to a greater degree the ecology and social interactions of these three species, through observation and consultation.

Some birds already have tags and records of these are ongoing.

If you spot any birds with tags please record the colour of the leg ring (if visible) and any number or letter which is visible on the tag. Taking a photograph can sometimes help to identify numbers. So if you have a camera take a picture! It would be great help.

Falkland's raptors included in the study...

Southern crested caracara

Latin name: *Caracara plancus*
Local Name: Caracaro
Length: 50-60cm (20-24in)
Wingspan: 120-132cm (47-52in)
Weight: 0.9-1.6kg
Distribution: from the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego, southernmost South America, north to the Amazon River and southern Peru.
Status: common to very common.
Conservation status - least concern (LC).

Turkey vulture

Latin name: *Cathartes aura*
Local Name: Turkey or Turkey Buzzard
Length: 66-71 cm (26-28in)
Wingspan: 157-170 cm (62-67in)
Weight: 2-4.4kg
Distribution: North, Central and South America, Tierra del Fuego & the Falkland Islands.
Status: Very common.
Conservation status - least concern (LC).

Striated caracara

Latin name: *Phalacrocorax australis*
Local Name: Johnny Rook
Length: 58-65cm (23-26in)
Wingspan: 125cm (49in)
Weight: 1-1.8kg
Distribution: Falkland Islands (mostly West Island) & Tierra del Fuego only.
Status: believed to be in decline in all locations.
Conservation status - Near Threatened (NT).

What Can I do to Help?

- Make a note of the numbers of these birds you see on the islands.
- Where were they feeding? What were they feeding on?
- Did they have young?
- Did you see a nest?
- What was the nest built on?

All this information is vital to the project and will help:

Complete the enclosed Observation Record. Or pick up one from our office in Stanley at: 41 Jubilee Villas or download a copy from our website at www.falklandsconservation.org.uk

At this information is vital to the project and will help:

Contact: Project Officer - M Reeves
Tel: 22247 email: raptors@conservation.org.uk


Raptor leaflet

Annual Report template only 2012-13


19

WANTED!


REPORTS OF COLOUR-LEG BANDED JOHNNY ROOKS




Black bands



Plain coloured bands



Yellow bands



Blue or green bands




Falklands Conservation and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary with the support from Falkland Islands Government, Saunders Island Farm and Wildlife Conservation Society (Steeple Jason) have been leg banding Johnny Rooks. These bands consist of yellow plastic bands with black letters/numbers, black plastic bands with yellow letters/numbers. Green or blue metal bands with letters and/or numbers and some birds also have plain coloured bands with no letters or numbers. These birds have been banded so we can monitor their movements around the islands. We would be most grateful of any sightings of these birds.

Please help us by sending the following information / photos of any Johnny Rook (striated carcara) sighting:

Band colour plus letters/numbers and left or right foot? Location or GPS position would be great. Was it in a group? How long was it in location if seen regularly? Activity? Breeding?

To Micky Reeves - email raptors@conservation.org.fk or tel office 22247

Falkland Islands Raptors


And rural livelihoods

How do raptors affect your livelihood?




How many raptors breed on your land?

How do their numbers and behaviour change between seasons?

The Project Officer will be conducting all land surveys over the course of the project however if you wish to contact us with any concerns or sightings in-between please call into our Steeple Jason office or see details below.



RURAL
BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION

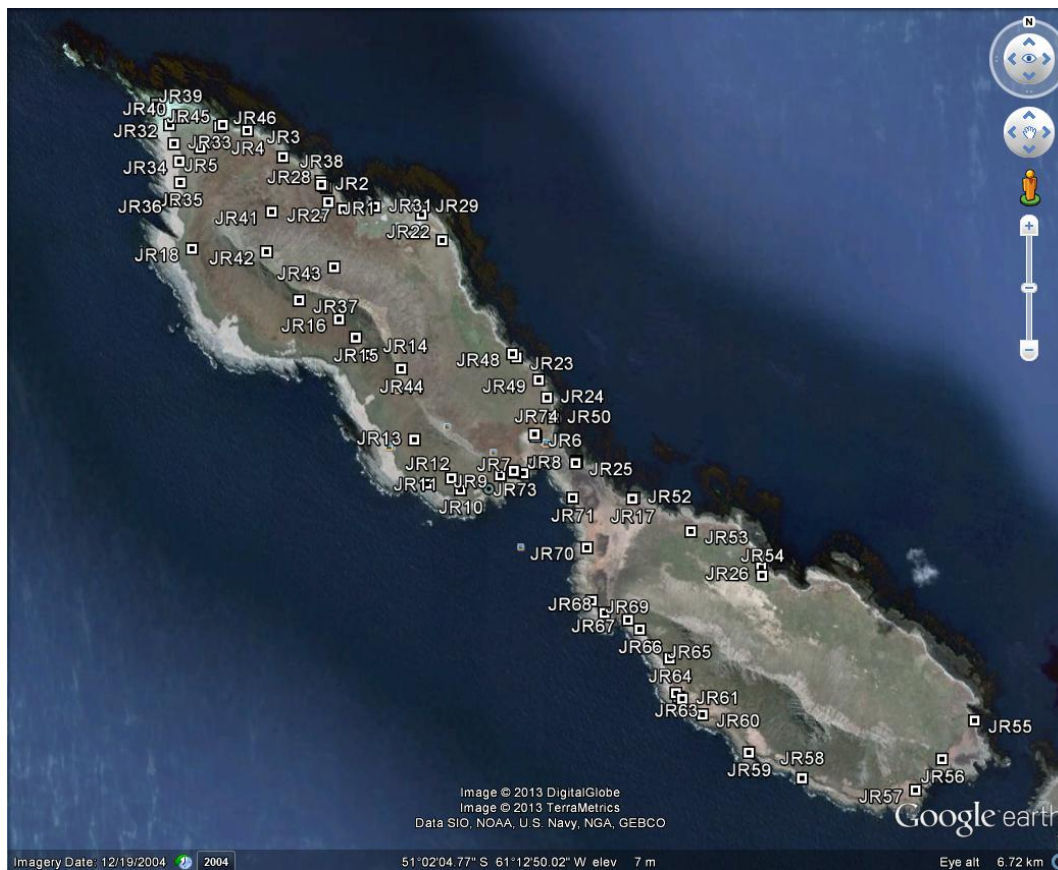
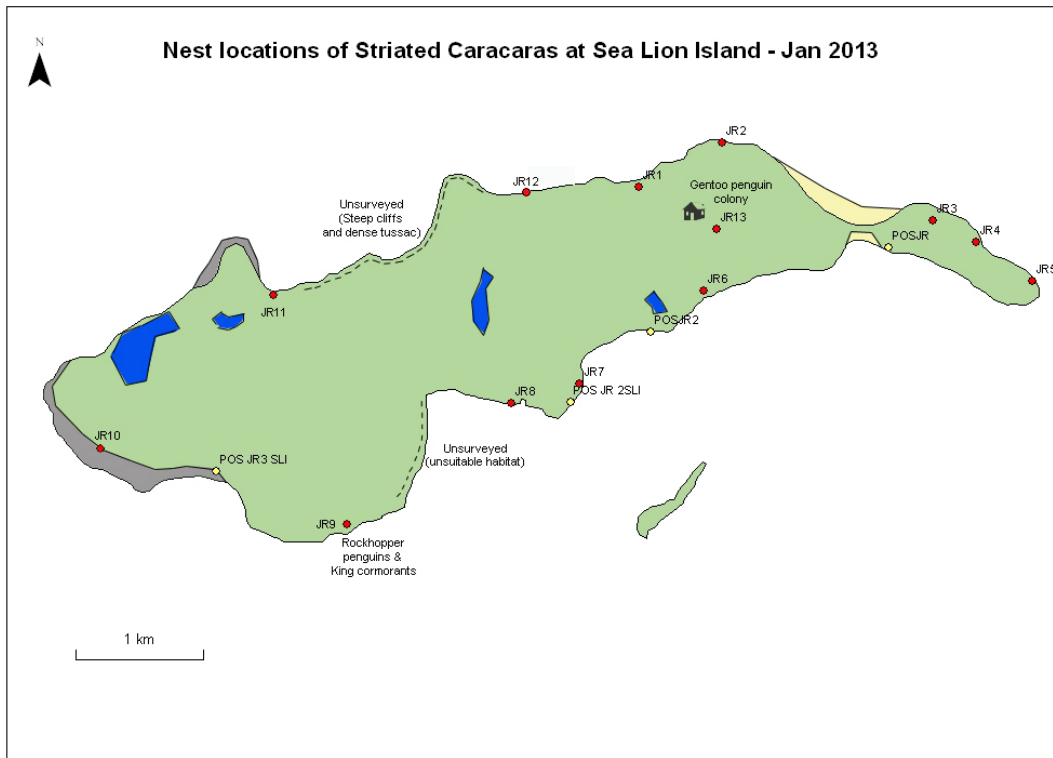




Contact: Micky Reeves -
raptors@conservation.org.fk
Telephone 22247

Wanted poster.

Poster used at Farmers Week 2012.

Presentation (slides) given to military personnel March 2013



Nest sites on Steeple Jason Island summer 2013



Example of the Questionnaire sent out to stakeholders and results.

Beliefs about Raptors and SGP

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raptors and SGPs kill healthy sheep/lambs on my farm | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Raptors and SGPs provide services that benefit the health of the farm environment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| If no action is taken against raptors and SGPs, sheep farming will likely suffer in the future | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| There is a significant number of sheep/lambs on my farm that would survive were it not for raptors and SGPs predation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Without the ability to shoot raptors and SGPs of prey, farmers have no power to protect their livestock. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Perceptions of the People Involved

| | Strongly Disagree | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| Farmers act favorably towards the health of the environment in the Falklands. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Falkland farmers would not kill a native species unless this species posed a significant threat | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Policy makers should make a better effort to understand farmer viewpoints. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Farmers have a responsibility to act as stewards for the wildlife and plant life on their land. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Farmers should make a more effort to communicate their concerns to policy makers. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |

Section 2: Fill in the Blank, and Multiple Choice

1. Mark an "X" for the level of threat posed to sheep on your farm by each of the following:

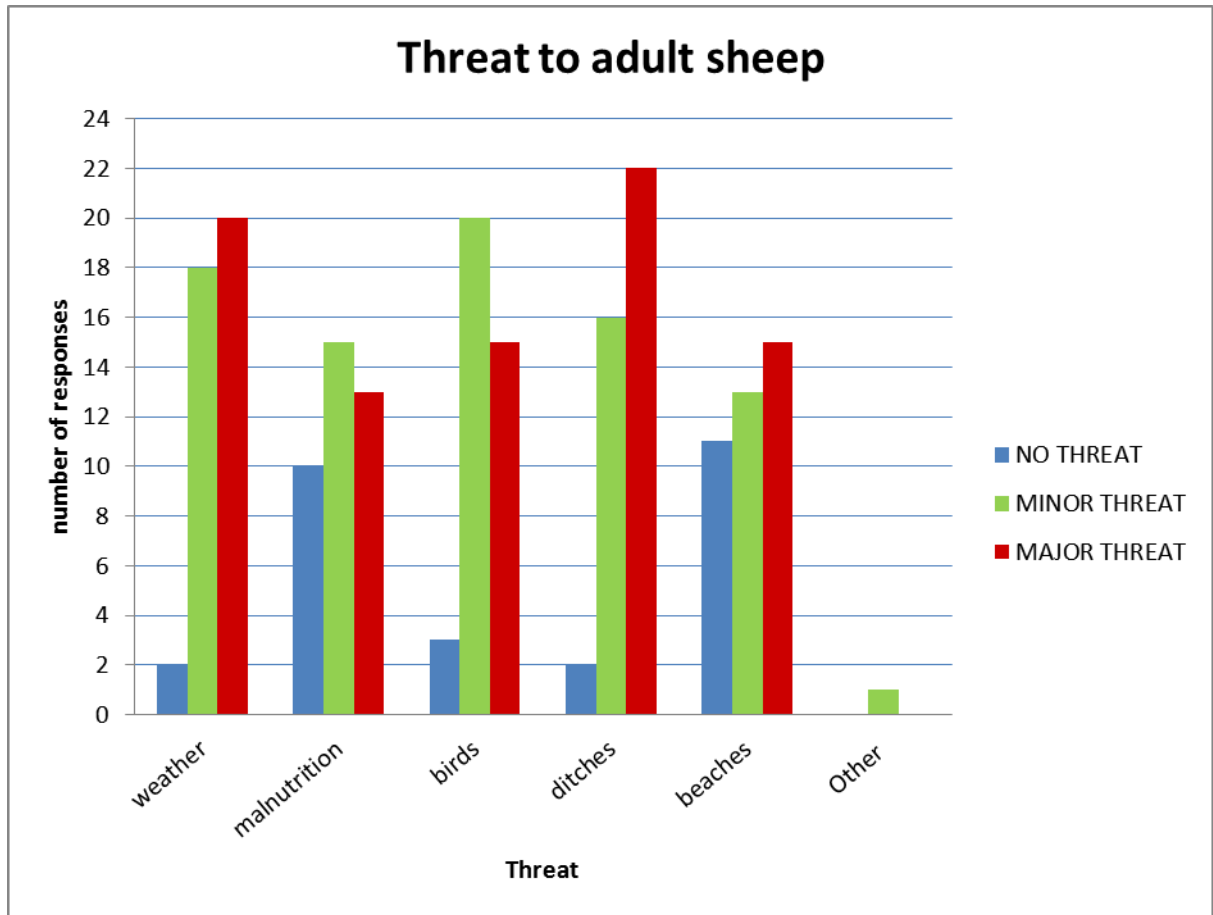
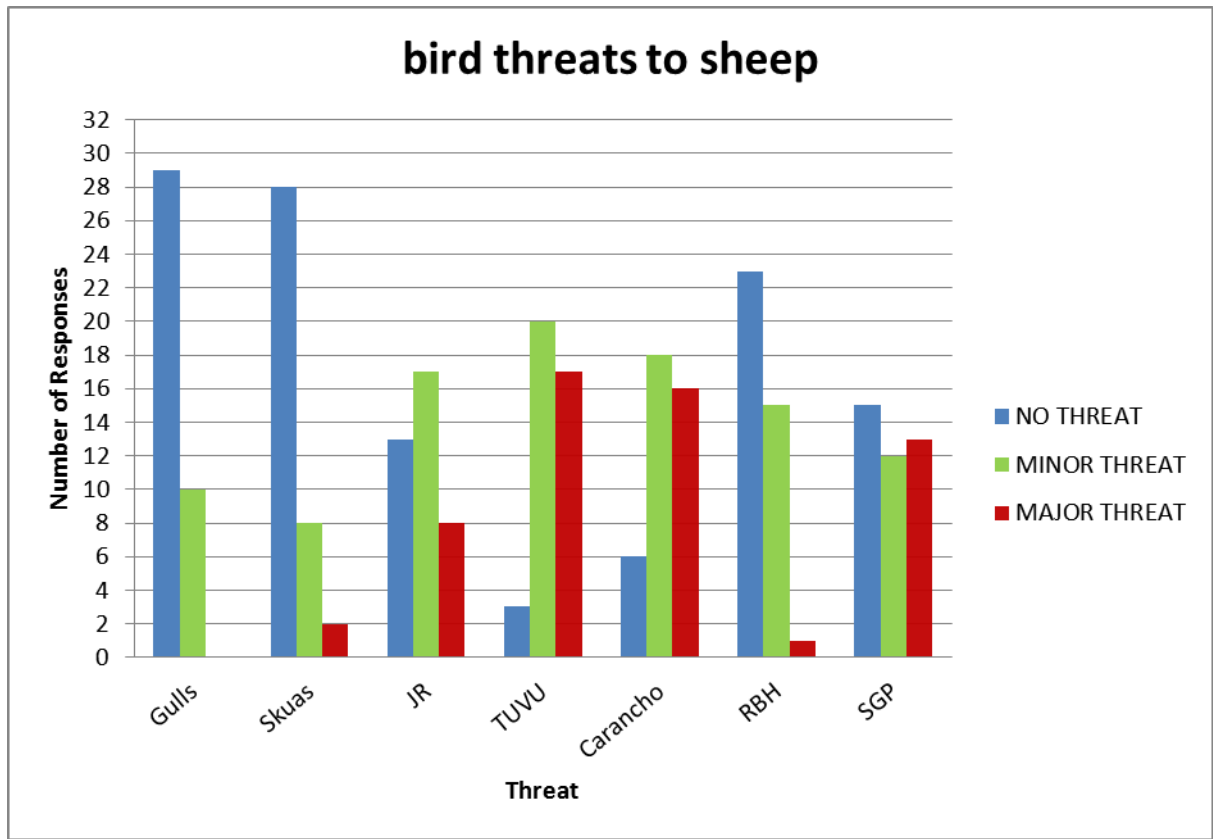
| | No Threat | Minor Threat | Major Threat |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Gulls | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Skuas | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Johnny Rooks | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Turkey Vultures | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Crested Caracaras (Caramchov) | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Red-backed Hawks | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Giant Petrels (Stinkers) | ___ | ___ | ___ |

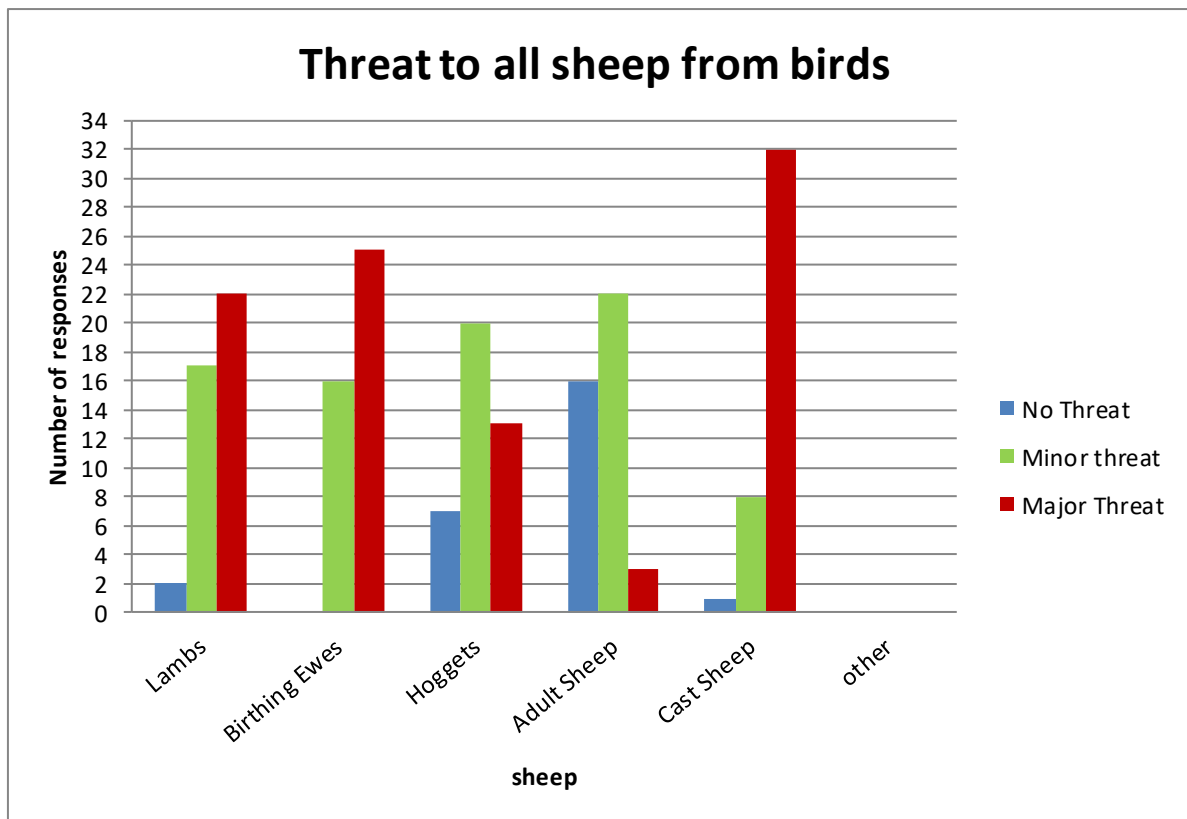
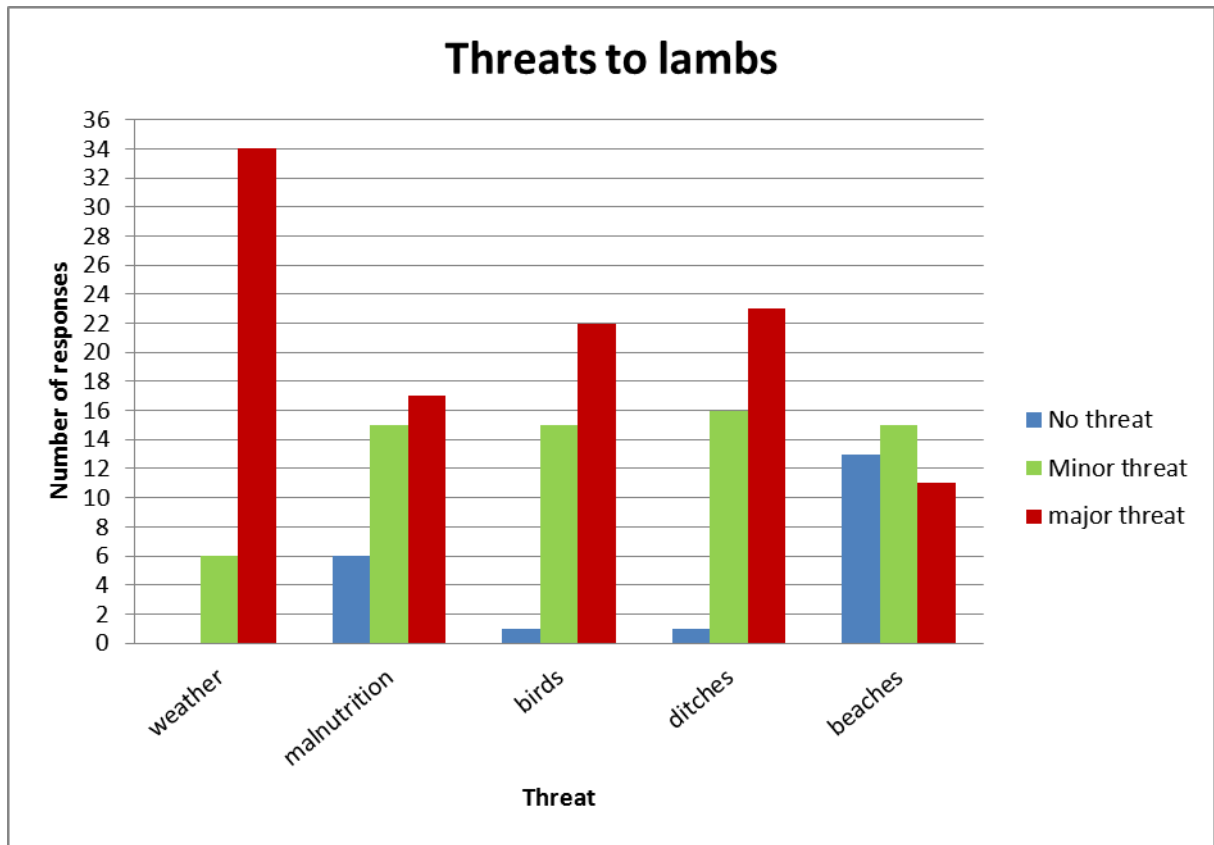
2. Mark an "X" for the level of threat posed to your ADULT SHEEP (there is a separate question for lambs below) for each of the following:

| | No Threat | Minor Threat | Major Threat |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Weather | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Malnutrition | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Birds | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Ditches | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Beaches/tides | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Other | ___ | ___ | ___ |

3. Mark an "X" for the level of threat posed to your LAMBS for each of the following:

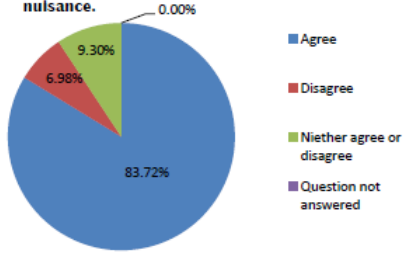
| | No Threat | Minor Threat | Major Threat |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Weather | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Malnutrition | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Birds | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Ditches | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Beaches/tides | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| Other | ___ | ___ | ___ |



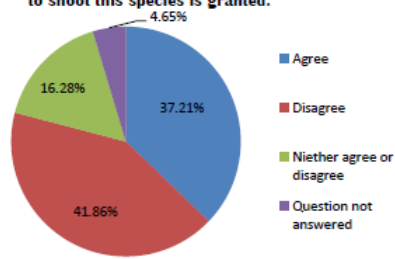


Click to decrease the magnification of the entire page

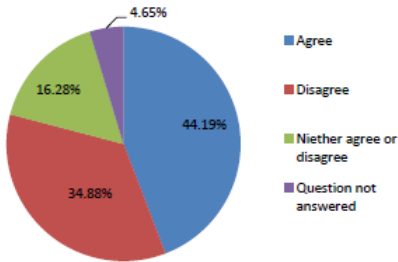
9. When a native species is common, permission to shoot this species should be granted easily if it is said to be a nuisance.



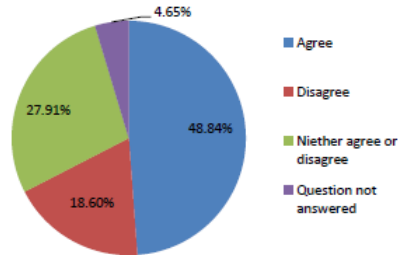
10. Strong evidence that a native species causes economic harm should be required before permission to shoot this species is granted.



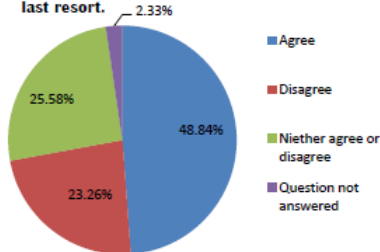
11. Farmers should be allowed to use any means they choose to protect their livestock.



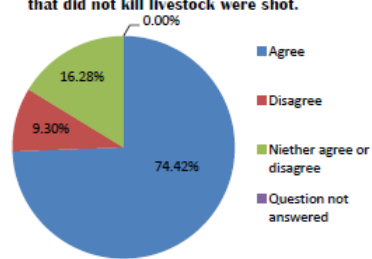
12. When there is uncertainty in the degree of harm caused by a species, it is still necessary for farmers to act to protect their stock.



13. Killing native species to protect livestock should be a last resort.



14. It would be upsetting if many raptors and SGPs that did not kill livestock were shot.



Field work photographs



Trapping striated caracaras.



Striated caracara chick banding.



Striated caracaras at a trap.



Project office and striated caracaras.



Banded striated caracara



Turkey vulture around lambing ewes.



Lamb autopsy in the field.



Wing tagged turkey vulture.



Banding a striated caracara - M Fischer.



And taking a blood sample - M Fischer.

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|--|-------|
| Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line. | no |
| Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | yes |
| Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | yes |
| Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. | no |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | no |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |