

To all keepers of Schedule 4 birds in  
England

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:

Date: 11 March 2009

Dear Keeper,

## **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981, REGISTRATION OF SCHEDULE 4 BIRDS. BREEDING SEASON 2009 ENGLAND**

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### **1. Which species must be registered**

As you are aware, the number of species listed on Schedule 4 was amended within England on 1 October 2008. Only the following species of birds need be registered with the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS) by way of the blue registration document:

**Golden Eagle**  
**Goshawk**  
**Honey Buzzard**  
**Marsh Harrier**  
**Montagu's Harrier**  
**Osprey**  
**White-tailed Eagle**

The following species of birds must also be registered with WLRS and must be covered either by the blue registration document, or an Article 10 (CITES) certificate.

**Merlin**  
**Peregrine Falcon**

Hybrids do not have to be registered.

## 2. Rings and microchips

We no longer supply closed rings for Schedule 4 birds to keepers in England. Therefore you are required to permanently mark your bird(s) with either a :

### **Closed Ring**

You are responsible for obtaining and fitting your own breeder's rings. We can supply you with a list of ring suppliers but cannot recommend which supplier should be used (see our website for contact details at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/CITES/birdregistration/links.htm>).

You are responsible for ensuring your closed rings are uniquely numbered. There is no prescriptive requirement for how this should be done, but could for example include a post code, breeder's initials, tel no (etc) in the sequential number.

If a ring number has already been recorded on the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service database, we will inform you that we cannot register it under that ring number, and the bird must be microchipped and registered under that number.

For a fuller explanation of ringing requirements, please see our website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/CITES/news/080922-birdregchanges.htm>

Or

### **Microchip**

Where the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service are satisfied that the physical or behavioural properties of a bird do not allow the safe fitting of a ring, the bird can be registered under a microchip number. The microchip which you have sourced yourself, must comply with ISO Standards 11784:1996 (E) and 11785:1996 (E).

As soon as this has been done you must notify us by completing a Declaration Of Ringing Form (DOR) to register the bird(s). You may request copies of the DOR from your case officers who will pre-populate it with your details before sending the forms out.

When completing the DOR please ensure that all numbers and letters that appear on the closed ring are clearly printed on the form and in the case of microchip numbers you should provide us with the barcode sticker provided by the microchip company.

The form must be completed in full. An incomplete form will be returned to you to add any missing information and the bird(s) will remain unregistered. It is not essential to identify the sex of the bird as this can be added at a later date.

## **Peregrine and Merlin:**

These can be registered in two ways

Either:

Completing a DOR as described above.

Or:

If you are intending to use the birds commercially you may apply for an EC Certificate (Article 10) by completing form FED 1012 and returning it along with the appropriate fee to us (please see attached guidance note GN20 on Charges from 6<sup>th</sup> April). The bird will not be considered registered until the A10 has been issued.

Microchips can be fitted to Peregrines or Merlins when they are between 12 – 22 days of age.

### **3. Fast Track Export Permits**

The procedure will be offered again this year, with slightly amended criteria to take account of the changes to bird registration.

We can process applications within 5 working days provided:

- any bird listed on Schedule 4 is already registered with us; **and**
- **either** an unconditional Article 10 has been issued; **or**
- for semi-complete Article 10s, you have already returned the pink copy to us with the bird's details (i.e. hatch date, ring number, if artificially inseminated then the male ring number and species).

If your application is submitted at the same time as your declaration of ringing and/or the return of your semi-complete A10, we will need to process them first. You should therefore allow 20 working days for us to process all three applications.

Applicants must ensure that the bird's ring number, hatch date and Article 10 number is provided in the description box of the export permit application form. It will not be possible to treat an application as fast-track if any of these details are missing, or there is anything else about the application that needs further investigation. These applications will be subject to the standard 15 working day turnaround time.

Applications should be made on the fast track application forms which we supply, so they are immediately recognisable when they arrive at our office. These may be obtained from your case officer. Please also mark the outside of the envelope "FAST TRACK".

#### **4. Registered birds transferred to new keepers**

If your bird is registered by way of a blue registration document please detach the transfer slip from the bottom of the registration document, fill in the details of the new keeper and send it off to your case officer. Pass the rest of the document to the new keeper along with the bird. The new keeper should use it to apply for registration of the bird in his own name, as this is the easiest and most convenient way to facilitate the transfer of registration.

If your peregrine or merlin is registered by way of an Article 10 certificate please pass it to the new keeper with the bird. If it is a transaction certificate you should advise them to contact us to register the bird.

#### **5. Exported birds and dead birds**

Please let us know when birds are transferred to keepers outside of the UK or if they die. In either case, the best way to do this is to send us the whole registration document with the appropriate box ticked. In the case of dead birds, you should return the ring along with the document if possible.

Following the above procedures will allow us to amend our records to show that a bird is no longer in your keepership and this will ensure that you will not be asked about its whereabouts during the course of any subsequent visit by a Wildlife Inspector.

#### **6. Lost birds**

If you are unfortunate enough to lose a registered bird you should contact your case officer immediately. This is important because we cannot give your contact details to anyone who might find the bird without your permission. Reporting the bird lost immediately and giving your permission for us to release your contact details will speed up the process of found birds being returned to you. If, having reported a bird lost, it is returned to you without the need for our assistance, you should contact your case officer again to confirm that it is back in your possession. Failure to do this may mean that your bird is no longer correctly registered.

#### **7. Avian influenza**

Your case officer will not be able to deal with any enquiries about avian influenza as this is a specialised subject dealt with by colleagues at other Defra offices.

If you have any enquiries about it or you wish to report the finding of a dead bird to Defra you should telephone the **Defra Helpline** on **08459 335577** and select the relevant option from the menu offered.

## 8. And your new case officer is...

If you have any queries about the registration or Article 10 certificate procedures, please contact your case officer on their direct number, and they will be pleased to advise you

Pete Barrett	0117 372 6098	Team Leader
Joan McDonald	0117 372 8777	Business/Surnames A-C
Sarah Hill	0117 372 8649	Business/Surnames A-C
Keith Wallace	0117 372 8433	Business/Surnames A-C
Madeleine Casey	0117 372 8170	Business/Surnames A-C
Jessica Abrams	0117 372 8010	Business/Surnames R-Z
Matthew Wright	0117 372 6330	Business/Surnames R-Z
Martine Purchase	0117 372 8293	Business/Surnames R-Z
Jamie Harwood	0117 372 8297	Business/Surnames R-Z
Adrian Thrift	0117 372 8017	Team Leader
Kathryn Spoons	0117 372 8684	Business/Surnames D-J
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Shelley Hicks	0117 372 8687	Business/Surnames D-J
Martin Saddington	0117 372 8120	Business/Surnames D-J
Julie Berry	0117 372 6095	Business/Surnames K-Q
Christine Rodgers	0117 372 8619	Business/Surnames K-Q
Jane Osborne	0117 372 8891	Business/Surnames K-Q
Simon James	0117 372 8502	Business/Surnames K-Q

In the meantime may we wish you a successful breeding season.

Yours faithfully

Pete Barrett  
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