

Wildlife related investigations involving DNA profiling

WCA - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

COTES - Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1985 and 1997

PBA - Protection of badgers Act 1992

Crim Decep - Criminal Deception, Theft Act 1968

PAA - Protection of animals Act 1911

DDA - Dangerous dogs Act 1991

Main sampling data	Results of DNA testing	Conviction date	Offences	Sentence	Prosecutor (assisting agency)
28-Jun-91	Four goshawk offspring shown as unrelated to claimed female parent (NB these offspring 'disappeared' prior to conviction).	Oct-92	WCA	Fine £100 Costs £100	RSPB
14-Jun-92	Eight sparrowhawks shown as unrelated to claimed parents	Apr-93	WCA	Fine £160 Costs £100	POLICE (RSPB)
22-Apr-93	Two peregrines and 13 goshawks shown to be peregrines unrelated to claimed parents. Large number infertile goshawk eggs also found.	Feb-94	WCA	Fine £10500 reduced to £2000 on appeal	POLICE
6-Jul-93	Case revolved around 12 1992 and 12 1993 peregrine offspring, 20 of which were DNA profiled. No parents available for DNA testing (claimed to have been stolen) but results showed that claimed sibling groups contained unrelated birds and that at least 5 female parents, rather than the claimed two, were needed to produce the 20 offspring tested. A further four untraced offspring were all believed of wild origin.	May-95	COTES	18 months imprisonment	POLICE (RSPB)
9-Jul-93	Four peregrines shown to be unrelated to claimed parents (note four further untraced peregrines also likely to be of wild origin)	Apr-94	WCA	Fine £750 Costs £100	POLICE (RSPB)

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19-Nov-93	Five goshawks shown to be unrelated to claimed parents	Jul-94	WCA	Fine £1980 Costs £350	POLICE (RSPB)
19-Nov-93	As above, co-defendant	Jul-94	WCA	Fine £1000 Costs £350	POLICE (RSPB)
27-Aug-93	One goshawk, shown by DNA profiling to be one of 'missing' birds from Case 1.	Jul-94	WCA	Fine £500 Costs £22	POLICE (RSPB)
11-Aug-93	Three 1993 goshawk offspring were shown to be related to declared offspring.	NA	NA	NA	HMCE (RSPB)
27-Feb-94	23 peregrines were shown to be unrelated to claimed parents. This included offspring back to 1987 and 16 from 18 progeny declared as captive-bred in 1993. A number of other peregrines were not traced for DNA testing and are believed likely to be of wild origin.	Sep-95	COTES	Four months imprisonment	POLICE (RSPB)
27-Feb-94	As above, co-defendant	Dec-95	WCA	Absolute discharge	POLICE (RSPB)
19-Aug-94	Sparrowhawk taxidermy specimen from one address and remains of carcase from freezer of another address confirmed to be same bird by DNA profiling.	Jun-95		£100	POLICE
8-Nov-95	Four goshawk offspring shown to be related to claimed parents.	NA	NA	NA	POLICE (RSPB)

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8-Nov-95	Approx five goshawk offspring shown to be related to claimed parents.	NA	NA	NA	POLICE (RSPB)
1995	Blood found at cockfighting pit analysed and identified as poultry		PAA	3 months imprisonment x 2	RSPCA
31-Jan-96	Two 1993 peregrine sibling offspring shown to be unrelated to claimed parents or each other. A further third bird, claimed as a wild-disabled bird, was probably a sibling to one of the two unrelated offspring and also illegally taken from the wild.	Apr-97	WCA	Fine £450 Costs £700	POLICE (RSPB)
18-Feb-96	Large numbers of chough, merlin and hobby shown to be related to claimed parents. Apparent genetic anomalies regarding some chough but marking and registration records insufficiently reliable to pursue any further action.	NA	NA	NA	POLICE (RSPB)
29-Jul-96	Two clutches of sparrowhawks (seven birds) allegedly from same parents were profiled. DNA showed two different sibling groups. Convicted in respect of three sparrowhawks, NFA re other four.	Apr-97	WCA	Fine £700	RSPCA

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26-Sep-96	Three goshawk offspring claimed as siblings. These birds shown to fall into two different sibling groups. The alleged pair of parent goshawks were claimed to have been stolen. Convicted re all three birds.	Jan-98	WCA	Fine £1500 Costs £250	POLICE (RSPB)
26-Sep-96	Two merlin offspring shown to be unrelated to claimed grandparents. The claimed parents had 'disappeared' and were not available for testing. It was intended to DNA test numerous other merlins but these had also 'disappeared'. Numerous other raptor offences.	Jan-98	WCA	Fine £3200 (£750 re merlins). Costs £300	POLICE (RSPB)
23-Jul-97	Two goshawk offspring shown to be unrelated to claimed parents.	Mar-98	WCA	Fine £2250 Costs £50	POLICE (RSPB)
Jun & Nov 97	Goshawk declared as wild-disabled and allegedly found on land near London. Information received that bird taken from nest site in Northumbria. By chance blood samples had been taken from chicks in this nest as part of DNA research project. DNA profiling confirmed bird with suspect was one from the nest in question. This information dismantled the story put forward by the suspect. This is the first time a bird in captivity has been linked to a sample taken from a wild bird.	Apr-98	WCA	Fine £1000 Costs £3500	POLICE (RSPB)

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19-Sep-97	Following a badger digging incident, DNA testing showed blood stains on clothing and knife of suspects to be that of badger.	Mar-96	PBA	Four months imprisonment	RSPCA
19-Sep-97	As above, co-defendant	Mar-96	PBA	Three months imprisonment	RSPCA
19-Sep-97	As above, co-defendant	Mar-96	PBA	Three months imprisonment	RSPCA
14-Feb-98	Suspects had declared breeding seven marsh harriers in captivity in 1994 and 1995. Parents and four offspring, since sold to other keepers, were traced and profiled indicating all four were not related to parents. Parent birds unreliably marked with cable-ties and defence suggested new keeper had switched parents accounting for DNA results. Case Judge unhappy with reliability of DNA evidence relating to cable-tied parent birds and ordered jury to return a not guilty verdict.	Sep-99	COTES Crim decep	NA	POLICE (RSPB)
16-Sep-98	Two 1998 peregrine offspring tested. Initial results suggested one offspring unrelated but later re-testing confirmed both birds legitimate offspring.	NA	NA	NA	POLICE (RSPB)

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16-Sep-98	Three 1998 peregrine offspring (same AI male as Defendant 1) shown to be captive bred. There were errors in information supplied to DEFRA on parentage because of use of mixed different semen samples with the same female.	NA	NA	NA	POLICE (RSPB)
1-May-01	Following the shooting of hen harrier DNA testing was undertaken on blood stains on suspect's clothing to see if hen harrier blood present. No hen harrier blood but range of six other species found including rabbit, woodcock, grouse etc	NA		NA	POLICE (RSPB)
2001	Blood analysed at the scene of an organised dog fight matched up with injured dogs recovered		PAA DDA	6 months imprisonment x 1 Community service order x 2	RSPCA

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19-Apr-02	Two gamekeepers seen visiting an illegal pole-trap set on grouse moor. One gamekeeper seen to remove something from trap then visit another location on the open moor. When this was checked the body of short-eared owl was found buried in the peat - this was believed to have been taken out of the pole-trap. Feathers found on trap confirmed as owl feathers from microscopic examination. DNA testing on samples from the trap confirmed the DNA of short-eared and also tawny owl. Believed to be first use of DNA techniques to identify animal remains in traps.	May-03	WCA	Fine of £200 each Costs of £210 each	POLICE (RSPB)
23-Feb-04	Two gamekeepers seen to visit crow cage-trap which had caught buzzard. Instead of releasing bird, one man seen to beat the bird to death with a stick. Body removed and not recovered. Visit to trapping site found spots of blood. DNA testing on these confirmed buzzard as most likely species.	Apr-05	WCA	Fine of £2000 each Costs of £500 each	POLICE (RSPB)

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2004	Men caught holding organised cockfight. DNA evidence proved defendants were present at the scene		PAA	90 days imprisonment Fine of £5000 Banned from keeping domestic fowl for life	RSPCA
26-Jun-05	Man seen digging into Badger Sett in Staffordshire Search warrant executed at his home address and two shovels recovered. Single hair from one shovel identified as badger using DNA profiling.	Mar-06	PBA	200 hrs Com Service. 1x month driving ban and £1000 costs	RSPCA
2005	Blood analysed from dogfighting venue matched injured dogs recovered hundreds of miles away		PAA DDA	3 months imprisonment	RSPCA