

## Wildlife related investigations involving forensic methods other than DNA profiling cases

Conviction date	Outline of offences for which convicted	Sentence	Forensic methods
1993	160 offences of possessing illegally taken wild birds	fine £2000 + costs	x-rays taken of seized specimens revealed lead shot present in each case
1996	Man convicted of possessing illegally taken wildlife	fine £100	x-rays used to identify shot specimens
13-Jan-98	Four offences re killing wild bird, destruction of nest and possession of items to commit offences.	Fine £550 costs £100	Following domestic argument offender set fire to chicks in nest in garden using lighter fluid. He claimed birds were already dead. Post-mortem showed food in stomachs of chicks (indicating recently fed) and soot in lungs. Also showed position of birds in nest from burn marks.
09-Dec-98	Two offences relating to unlawful shooting of wild bird.	Fine £350.	Post-mortem examination confirmed cause of death. Air rifle ammunition removed from corpse and forensically matched to firearm seized from suspect.
24-May-99	Six offences relating to illegal storage and possession of pesticides plus four firearms offences.	Fine £4500 and costs of £175	Pesticide analysis of pesticides found in suspect's work vehicle and at home address.
12-Jul-99	45 offences relating to illegal use of self locking snares, killing and cruelty to badgers.	Three months imprisonment.	Pathological examination of dead badgers confirmed cause of death due to use of illegal snares. Bullet fragments removed from some animals - though these could not be conclusively matched to the suspect they did exclude the firearms of the only other person who could have realistically been responsible.

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06-Dec-99	Two offences relating to illegal possession of over 1200 birds' eggs.	Fine £3000 and costs of £500	Handwriting analysis of writing on containers of eggs hidden at another address was confirmed as that of the suspect.
14-Mar-00	Six offences relating to the illegal trapping of wild peregrine falcons.	Fine £2700	Fibre analysis matching trapping equipment to material at suspect's home.
14-Mar-00	17 offences re illegal storage and use of pesticides	Fine £850 and costs of £100	Pesticide analysis of poison bait, victim and pesticides found with suspect.
02-Feb-00	16 offences re illegal possession taxidermy bird specimens	Fine £1800 and costs of £630.	Radiographs and detailed examination of feather damage confirmed many taxidermy specimens had been shot.
10-Feb-00	Nine offences re illegal possession taxidermy bird specimens	Fine £800 and costs of £150	Radiographs and detailed examination of feather damage confirmed many taxidermy specimens had been shot.
30-Jun-00	13 offences relating to illegal possession of birds' eggs and taxidermy bird specimens	Twelve month conditional discharge and costs of £300. Further costs of £1,500 in connection with failed appeal.	Handwriting analysis confirmed that writing on containers of eggs, data labels accompanying eggs and also eggshells themselves was that of suspect. Believed to be first time handwriting analysis undertaken on marks on eggshells. Radiographs and detailed examination of feather damage confirmed several taxidermy specimens had been shot. Forensic examination of clutch of osprey eggs also revealed original markings placed on the eggs with a permanent marker pen by a person protecting the nest site but later removed using solvent by the taker of the eggs.

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16-Jan-01	Six offences relating to illegal pesticide use	Fine £500 and costs of £200	Pesticide analysis of poison bait, victim and pesticides found with suspect.
16-Aug-01	Three offences relating to illegal sale of eggs.	Three month sentence suspended for 18 months. Costs of £1150	Evidence of numerous offences, including sale of an egg collection, found hidden on suspect's encrypted computer files.
16-Jan-02	Three offences relating to illegal possession of wild goshawk	Fine £800 and costs of £300	Forensic examination of ring fitted to a bird of prey confirmed it had been tampered with. Believed a ring originally issued to a captive-bred bird had been re-fitted to an illegally acquired bird.
18-Jan-02	22 charges re smuggling wild birds and illegal trade in birds.	6.5 years imprisonment	Fingerprint impressions used connect suspect with smuggling equipment.
02-Oct-02	Five charges relating to finch trapping	Community Punishment Order for 100 hours and a Community Rehabilitation Order for 18 months. Costs of £561.70p.	Fingerprint impressions to connect suspect to trapping equipment.
2002	Man charged with causing unnecessary suffering to dogs after video evidence found at his property showed him holding organised dog fights	3 months imprisonment banned for life from keeping dogs	Digital facial mapping was used to prove that it was actually him on the video

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2002	Offences relating to organising dog fights	6 months imprisonment	Forensic examination of computer hard drive recovered from the site of an organised dog fight showed images and emails relating to dog fighting and possession of banned dogs
24-Apr-03	Eleven offences of possession of wild caught wading birds	120hrs Comm service	Computer analysis used to identify associates and dealers of birds in Belgium. Info passed to relevant authorities
19-Jan-04	Two charges re intentional killing and possession of sparrowhawk	Fine £200. Costs £120	Suspect seen to deliberately run down female sparrowhawk (feeding on pigeon kill) in car park and put body in boot. Later police search found three breast feathers in boot of suspect's vehicle. Microscopic examination of feather structure by CSL Birdstrike team confirmed the feathers were from a member of Accipitridae family. Morphological comparison with study skins indicated a strong likelihood of the species being a female sparrowhawk.
29-Jan-04	Three charges relating to reckless disturbance of nesting goshawk, intentional destruction of two goshawk eggs, and possession of items (climbing irons) to commit an offence.	Three month custodial sentence suspended for two years.	Gamekeeper believed to have climbed tree using climbing irons and a destroyed contents of goshawk's nest. An 'odd pair' of climbing irons seized from suspect. Tree felled and sections of trunk with marked by climbing irons compared with those seized. Match not conclusive but strong evidence that irons seized were responsible for the marks made and supported other evidence.

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2005	Offences under the Badgers Act 1992	6 months imprisonment banned from driving 12 months vehicle confiscated	post mortem of dead badger found at the scene of an illegal dig was identified as having died from gunshot wounds
2005	Offences under the Badgers Act 1992	6 months imprisonment banned from driving 12 months vehicle confiscated	Forensic analysis of computer hard drive seized from the house of a suspected badger digger found images and emails relating to badger digging
13-Mar-06	One charge attempt to take Badger	200hrs Com service 6 month drive ban	Soil and pollen analysis used to link suspects shovel to scene of disturbed Badger sett