

sci.agriculture.poultry: Despite the best efforts of the RSPB and SNH the hedgehogs are fighting back.

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The recent RSPB led slaughter of hedgehogs by it's lackey and quango SNH is not quite going how they planned. The cull is proving very unsuccessful and unpopular, not to mention completely unnecessary.

Why would the RSPB insist this CONservation hooliganism continues?

<http://www.advocatesforanimals.org.uk/campaigns/wild/hedgehogs/uist07.html>

Uist Hedgehog Rescue thanks you for your support
Summer 2004

Uist Hedgehog Rescue (UHR) is the coalition of animal groups working together to rescue and relocate hedgehogs from the Uists and Benbecula to the mainland. The rescue has been made necessary because of Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) decision to kill the hedgehogs. UHR has consistently agreed that the Uists internationally important breeding populations of wading birds need to be protected. However, we believe that instead of killing the hedgehogs, they should simply be moved live to the mainland. In that way we can save both the waders and the hedgehogs.

UHR has now rescued 175 hedgehogs, 170 of which have been safely relocated to the mainland and released into suitable sites to live out their lives. This is in addition to the 156 we rescued last year. UHR has now ended its rescue for this year as females may now be pregnant and should not be moved. UHR would like to thank the many islanders who have been supporting our rescue effort by bringing hedgehogs to us to relocate on the mainland.

Reward not taxable

It was of concern to UHR that rumours may have been circulated that the £20 reward being offered to residents of the Uists and Benbecula for each hedgehog rescued may be liable to tax. Having checked with the Inland Revenue, we can confirm that the reward is not liable to tax.

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What is of concern to those of us working hard to rescue these hedgehogs and relocate them to the mainland is that unfounded rumours such as these may hamper our rescue efforts and delay the revival of the wading bird populations on the islands.

There is, however, one tax issue which should be causing grave concern – the vast amounts of taxpayers' money that Scottish Executive conservation quango, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), is spending killing these perfectly healthy wild animals. SNH should heed the advice of the experts in this field to end this unnecessary killing and instead work with UHR.

Hedgehog study underway

SNH has accused UHR of being cruel by moving the hedgehogs. This is utter nonsense and a last-ditch attempt to justify its unethical killing policy. Scientists from the People's Trust for Endangered Species charity spent many months in discussion with SNH last year in an attempt to develop an acceptable post-release monitoring study. However, due to the excessive demands made by SNH, the costs of this study rose to £160,000. Thus, as sufficient funding could not be found and SNH was not prepared to contribute, the study has not proceeded this year.

UHR has given 24 of this year's rescued hedgehogs to Professor Stephen Harris at the School of Biological Sciences at Bristol University who is undertaking a scientific study to monitor their post-release survival. Small radio transmitters will be attached to their spines so that they can be tracked by researchers. An equal number of Bristol hedgehogs will also be tracked in order to compare the survival rates and condition of the two groups.

World hedgehog experts support UHR

Hugh Warwick, an independent ecologist who visited the Uists last spring, gave a presentation at a meeting of the European Hedgehog Research Group held in April 2004. The majority of those present signed the following statement:

"We recognise the need for the Uist wader population to be protected. And to that end, we accept the need for hedgehogs to be removed from the islands. However, the undersigned attendees of the European Hedgehog Research Group conference, including many of the world's leading experts in hedgehog ecology and behaviour, call for Scottish Natural Heritage to halt the cull of hedgehogs on the Uists. And, in view of the published scientific studies that indicate that hedgehog translocation can be undertaken successfully, we call on SNH to support the efforts of those wishing to translocate the hedgehogs in a careful and well-monitored manner."

Mr Warwick stressed:

"This statement is not simply a sentimental response to the events currently unfolding in the Hebrides, but is based on our collective

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expertise and a genuine concern that relevant scientific evidence may be being ignored."

Dr Valerie Keeble, Chief Executive of People's Trust for Endangered Species, said:

"We feel that it is very encouraging that members of the wider scientific community agree with our opinion that the relocation of the Uist hedgehogs may be a viable alternative to a mass cull."

The future for the Uist hedgehogs

As we have always made clear, UHR supports the removal of the hedgehogs from the Uists. Our efforts this year and last will no doubt have had a positive impact on the breeding successes of the Uist waders.

We are hopeful that SNH will admit to its folly and work with UHR to relocate the hedgehogs to the mainland next year instead of killing them.

Once again, UHR would like to say thank you to the people of the Uists and Benbecula for helping us to help the waders and the hedgehogs.

UHR consists of Advocates for Animals, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue Trust and International Animal Rescue. For more information call 0131 225 6039 or e-mail info@advocatesforanimals.org.

SUPPORT ISRAEL

Myths & Facts Online
A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict
By Mitchell G. Bard

<http://tinyurl.com/ysepr>

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| NO PLONKING ZONE |
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'You can't win 'em all.'
Lord Haw Haw.

Since I stopped donating money to CONservation hooligan charities
Like the RSPB, Woodland Trust and all the other fat cat charities
I am in the top 0.217% richest people in the world.
There are 5,986,950,449 people poorer than me

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If you're really interested I am the 13,049,551
richest person in the world.

And I'm keeping the bloody lot.

So sue me.

<http://www.globalrichlist.com/>

Newsgroup etiquette

- 1) Tell everyone the Trolls don't bother you.
- 2) Say you've killfiled them, yet continue to respond.
- 3) Tell other people off who respond despite doing so yourself.
- 4) Continually talk about Trolls while maintaining they're having no effect.
- 5) Publicly post killfile rules so the Trolls know how to avoid them.
- 6) Make lame legal threats and other barrel scraping manoeuvres when your abuse reports are ignored.
- 7) Eat vast quantities of pies.
- 8) Forget to brush your teeth for several decades.
- 9) Help a demon.local poster with their email while secretly reading it.
- 10) Pretend you're a hard bastard when in fact you're as bent as a roundabout.
- 11) Become the laughing stock of Usenet like Mabbet
- 12) Die of old age
- 13) Keep paying Dr Chartham his fees and hope one day you will have a penis the girls can see.

"If you would'nt talk to them in a bar, don't *uckin' vote for them"

"Australia was not *discovered* it was invaded"

The Big Yin.

Need a fake diploma for fun? contact my colleagues Malcolm Ogilvie or Michael Saunby who both bought one and got one free, only \$15 each, have as many as you like www.fakediplomas.com