

Hare and young rabbit make friends

Gill Turner wrote in with this charming story. “Did I ever mention to you that I spent time on consecutive mornings watching a hare and young rabbit spending time together? I consider this to be a very rare thing, something I have never seen before. The young rabbit waited patiently until the hare appeared then off they went, feeding and to all intent and purposes just socialising. I took photographs but have never published them. Although I was with the pair and they certainly didn't mind my presence, on the 2nd day the hare became spooked and disappeared. The sad thing is that I found the rabbit in the same place the next day and we waited together, but no hare, I never saw them together again. What a privilege though, talk about being in the right place at the right time. I was delighted and puzzled by the pair, they were both young and I knew that it was a doe hare and a buck rabbit. They seemed very used to each other and I came to the conclusion that this would be my only chance to take photos of such a pair.” *(It is generally accepted that hares and rabbits don't get on together and although a majority of farmers welcome hares on their land some do so for that very reason. They know that if hares are present rabbits will stay away. However, Gill's experience shows there is always an exception which proves the rule. Ed.)*

Project Splatter

At the end of 2012 there were 34.5 million vehicles licensed for use on the roads in Great Britain (DVLA). The number of animals killed on the roads in the United States is estimated at a million per day. About 350,000 to 27 million birds are estimated to be killed on European roads each year. In the UK we currently do not know what the impact of roads are on our wildlife. Project Splatter is a research effort to quantify and map wildlife roadkill across the UK. The ultimate aim is to reduce the impact of roads on our UK wildlife. Further details including the method of recording your sightings are here: www.projectsplatter.co.uk

From the archives – Fayed the kite deserts to Balmoral

A rare Red Kite reared on Mohamed al-Fayed's Highland estate has turned up 100 miles away at Balmoral in Deeside. The bird, modestly christened 'Fayed' by the Harrods owner, disappeared shortly after being released on his 65,000-acre Balnagowan estate in Easter Ross. Fayed the Kite was one of ten birds released there as part of a conservation scheme.

Fayed and the Royals have been at daggers drawn since the death of Princess Diana in the car crash in Paris in 1997. The Egyptian-born tycoon sees the arrival of Fayed the Kite over the turrets of Balmoral Castle as divine intervention.

“Part of my soul has left Balnagowan with this bird and travelled to Balmoral where it will be acting on my behalf to keep an eagle eye on the royal family”, he told *The Times*. “I hope he takes every opportunity to shit on Prince Philip when he ventures outside his door”, added the charming non-British grandee.

Buckingham Palace has declined to comment.

Petition to ban driven grouse shooting

This petition to the Government by Dr Mark Avery reached 33,655 signatures. Addressing the Hen Harrier Day rally in August 2014 Chris Packham said “We will win!” The mountain hare is one of several iconic species, including the golden eagle, which would benefit if a ban materialises.

Referendum update from Sir Grahan Watson

While the warnings from those in positions of authority, like the Governor of the Bank of England, get starker by the week, the rolling opinion poll average now shows a majority intending to vote to leave the EU. The campaign predicting economic calamity if we vote to quit the EU is not (or perhaps not yet) gaining traction. A massive effort will be required in the forty days which remain to pull this around.