

Dave Anderson 2016

The CSRSG nomination for the Donald and Jeff Watson Award is Dave Anderson. From his formative years supporting the efforts of others in the Borders and Northumberland forests, Dave has gone on to define, challenge and develop new ways of raptor fieldwork. His unquestioned enthusiasm is matched by his dogged determination to progress and develop new techniques and fresh thinking in this field. His work spans a broad suite of raptors - species like Goshawk, Osprey, Tawny Owl and, as most of us have seen over the years and this year in particular, Golden Eagle.

Being something of a leading light within Forest Enterprise Scotland belies that fact that the bulk of Dave's work is done in his own time. Many of us have benefitted from him giving his time and expertise in assisting and training new and experienced members of the SRSG over the years. His involvement in each of our specialist groups is invaluable and has encouraged others to take on the mantle of co-ordinator, and the Kestrel and buzzard sub groups would be great examples.

His wider knowledge of Scottish conservation shows a depth and an understanding of wider conservation practice, particularly the 'dark side', which has made him an invaluable expert witness, a role which he relishes and excels in. He's not intimidated by the judicial environment and has been instrumental in the successful prosecution of some of Scotland's most recent offenders.

However, the talk he gave at the 2013 conference gave us a hint to the future success of the innovative field techniques he is pioneering, and over the last twelve months his contribution to a number of television productions has demonstrated this and he has been instrumental to

their success. Satellite tracking, ringing and use of trail cameras has enlightened us, and his work with production companies and has done that for many on sofas all over the UK. From Landward, Loch Lomond, Griff Rhys Jones and, nothing short of a triumph, this year's BBC Winterwatch, his contribution has been fantastic!

It is not all plain sailing, he comes into conflict with people who don't share his vision within conservation and whilst he takes the blows, he is supported by many SRSG members who wish to see him succeed. The hard graft that he does with a demanding job, an active family life where he is supported by his wife Katy, and the commitment he shows to all of the projects which are frankly too numerous to mention, is a great testament to his passion, commitment and dedication.

He is a wonderful advocate for our subject and would be a worthy and thoroughly deserved recipient of the Donald and Jeff Watson Award.

John Simpson

Chair

CSRSG