

George Smith – Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group

George Smith has been a member of Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group for over 20 years. Considering he works full time as a Technical Services Manager in a bank, and has a family of three daughters, his raptor monitoring achievements are phenomenal. At his very first RSG meeting, George was appointed as the Buzzard records coordinator. Shortly afterwards he was also working with the late George Carse on Peregrines as they were also making a comeback in the region. Over the next few years George became one of the most productive members of the group and is presently species coordinator for three key species: Peregrine, Buzzard and Raven. He is best known for his work with Peregrines, monitoring an extraordinary number of nest sites every year, ringing chicks and trapping adults to fit PIT tags. Even during the 'off season' George is working on Peregrines, looking for sites he might have missed and modifying known sites to make them more secure from the elements or from persecution. He has published several papers and articles about his work and is contributing to a much better understanding of Peregrine demography in the region, and especially the effect that persecution is having on this species.