

Patrick Stirling-Aird – Central Raptor Study Group; Tayside Raptor Study Group

Patrick Stirling-Aird has been monitoring golden eagles, peregrines and ravens within the Central region and Perthshire for 35 years, and he has been Chair of the Central Raptor Study Group since its formation in 1983. In addition, he has served as the SRSG's Secretary for the past 12 years. Patrick was a member of the UK Government's Raptor Working Group from 1995-2000 and he currently represents the SRSG on the Moorland Forum and the Scottish Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group and he is also joint Secretariat of the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Group. In addition to his fieldwork, he attends countless meetings representing the SRSG. He is also presently serving on the UK RSPB Council in his own right and has previously served on the RSPB Scottish Advisory Committee. His controlled persistence in defence of raptors and against criminal persecution is quite unique; his training as a solicitor has obviously been extremely beneficial. This has also enabled him to write exceptionally complex but fluent letters on our behalf to newspapers, magazines, Government Ministers, the Police and SNH all in defence of, or in the promotion of raptors. He works closely with NGOs and in particular with the RSPB on raptor issues.

Patrick was awarded the MBE in 2006 for his services to wildlife conservation, demonstrating the high regard with which he is held throughout the conservation and political world. Over many years, Patrick's reputation and influence as an amateur within the world of Scottish raptor conservation is second to none. We are truly indebted to him for his dedication to and involvement with the Scottish Raptor Study Group and more importantly with Scotland's raptors and ravens. He is a truly committed ambassador for raptors.