

The impacts of pests on the agricultural and game-keeping industry can be severely detrimental to the livelihood of the landowner, with [rodents causing untold damage](#) to crops, "finished products", and machinery; eating and contaminating feed; and [spreading disease](#). This damage is often managed using [rodenticides and general housekeeping, proofing and stacking techniques](#), however, a much less utilised form of rodent control is the introduction of raptors to farmland. Raptors provide [a natural form of rodent control](#) - similar to swallows preying on unwanted insects - by preying on rats, mice, voles, shrews and other rodents that commonly reside in large, maintained fields and act as pests towards the agricultural and game-keeping industry. It has been found that the introduction of nest boxes and artificial perches in farmland is likely to increase the number of raptors hunting in that area, and therefore, [significantly reduce the rodent population](#).

A further issue within the industry is that of the [spread of disease](#) to livestock, game and humans, via carrion. With many raptor species being scavengers, including the UK's most common raptor, the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), their presence within farmland actively [decreases the existence of disease](#).

Regardless of the benefits that raptors provide to the farming and game-keeping industries, there were [85 confirmed incidences](#) in 2019 alone, with 32 of those raptors killed being the previously mentioned common buzzard. In some cases, secondary persecution occurred after a raptor preyed on a rodent that had ingested highly poisonous rodenticide. It is often reported that most of these offences have been carried out by [farmers and gamekeepers](#) who chose to either shoot, poison or trap raptors under the belief that they are preying/may prey on their livestock or game. However, as more information is shared on the benefits of raptors, more and more members of both communities have begun to actively, and publicly, [condemn any form of raptor persecution](#).