

Questions and discussion following talk by Roy Dennis

Bird reintroductions in the British Isles - Lessons from recent experience

Q = Question A = Answer S = Statement

Q. What is the feedback to date on the economic benefits of the sea eagles on Mull?

A. Some farmers are still resistant to the idea of the sea eagles, citing lamb kills as their main concern. Many problems and negative perceptions amongst farmers have been solved by local management activity. There is a need for more financial incentives for local people who have an involvement in the sea eagles.

Q. What is the density dependence of Ospreys?

A. Each year, each area has 9-10 surplus population looking to breed, but these individuals hang on rather than disperse, so perhaps we should move some?

Q. What's the cost of reintroducing a species?

A. The highest cost is protecting your back! Too much is spent on feasibility studies to consider if and how to get things underway. Feasibility work can be strung out and the costs can therefore grow.

S. In Norway, the practice is to pay compensation for predators' damage to livestock. But in Sweden, the practice is to pay landowners to host big predators and this approach has overcome much resistance. In Norway, the attitudes of many farmers towards nature conservation policy is deteriorating - the Swedish approach, which is clearly working, would avoid this.

S. Roy Dennis stated he is wary of paying compensation for damage. It begs questions like: Where does this end? Who loses?