



## BIRDS AND WIND TURBINES

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*"THE RSPB VIEWS CLIMATE CHANGE AS THE MOST SERIOUS LONG-TERM THREAT TO WILDLIFE IN THE UK AND GLOBALLY AND, THEREFORE, WE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET TO SOURCE 15% OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLES BY 2015."*<sup>1</sup>

*"CLIMATE CHANGE COULD DRIVE A MILLION OF THE WORLD'S SPECIES TO EXTINCTION AS SOON AS 2050"*<sup>2</sup>

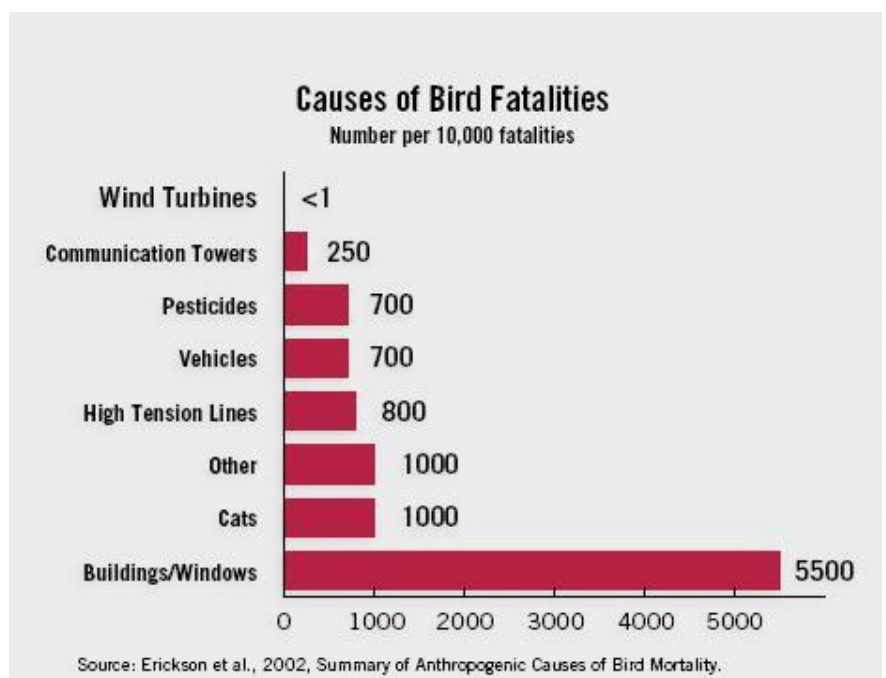
*UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE A LOT OF BIRD STRIKES ON OUR WINDOWS AND SOMETIMES FIND LITTLE SKELETONS LONG AFTER BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE ANYWHERE NEAR THE TURBINE."*<sup>3</sup>

*"THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT APPROPRIATELY POSITIONED WIND FARMS DO NOT POSE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD FOR BIRDS."*<sup>4</sup>

*"PRECAUTIONS CAN STILL BE TAKEN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE. VERTICAL AXIS TURBINES, WHICH ARE CLOSE TO COMMERCIALIZATION, ARE PROMISING AS A SAFER TECHNOLOGY."*<sup>5</sup>

CONCERNS AROUND POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF WIND TURBINES ON LOCAL BIRD AND BAT POPULATIONS ARE OFTEN RAISED DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS, BUT ARE GENERALLY UNFOUNDED - THE MORE SIGNIFICANT THREAT BEING THE POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON A HUGE NUMBER OF THE WORLD'S SPECIES.

INCIDENCES OF BIRDS AND BATS BEING KILLED BY SMALL WIND TURBINES ARE INCREDIBLY SMALL, THEY ARE USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS OR POOR SITING AND PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE WHEN WE CONSIDER THE NUMBER KILLED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES.



PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM TURBINE OWNERS ALSO SUPPORT THE ARGUMENT THAT SMALL WIND POSES MUCH LESS OF A THREAT THAN ANIMALS AND EVEN WINDOWS.

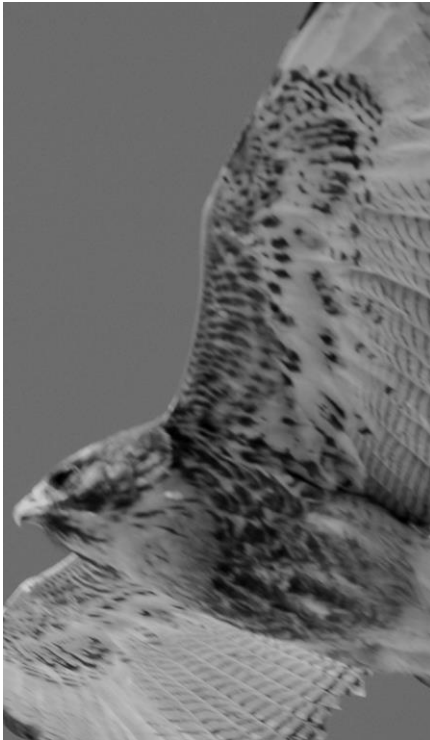
<sup>1</sup> See 1

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3375447.stm> accessed 26/01/2007

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bettergeneration.co.uk/wind-turbines/small-wind-turbines-impact-on-birds.html> accessed 23/01/2007

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/windfarms/index.asp> accessed 23/01/2007

<sup>5</sup> <http://newenergynews.blogspot.com/search?q=audubon> accessed 29/01/2007



EXISTING RESEARCH RELATES PRIMARILY TO LARGE WIND INSTALLATIONS, WHERE STUDIES BY THE RSPB, THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND THE DANISH WIND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION HAVE CONCLUDED THAT, APPROPRIATELY SITED, WIND TURBINES DO NOT REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO WILDLIFE.

WHILST THERE IS CURRENTLY LITTLE INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE IMPACT OF SMALL WIND TURBINES, QUIETREVOLUTION IS COMMITTED TO RESEARCHING AND ADDRESSING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ITS WIND TURBINE INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING THE IMPACT ON LOCAL WILDLIFE AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE RSPB/ENERGY SAVINGS TRUST'S NATIONWIDE STUDY BEGINNING IN 2007 TO ASSESS THE REAL IMPACT OF SMALL WIND INSTALLATIONS ON BOTH BATS AND BIRDS.

## The RSPB have said that:

Studies have been carried out by the Danish Wind Industry Association using radar to track bird flight paths around wind turbines,

*"Birds are seldom bothered by wind turbines, however. Radar studies from Tjaereborg in the western part of Denmark, where a 2 megawatt wind turbine with 60 metre rotor diameter is installed, show that birds - by day or night - tend to change their flight route some 100-200 metres before the turbine and pass above the turbine at a safe distance."*<sup>6</sup>

The Danish Wind Industry Association also refer to a study in Canada on the effect on migratory routes

*"Bird studies from Yukon, Canada, show that migratory birds do not collide with wind turbines (Canadian Wind Energy Association Conference, 1997)."*

The Danish Study was also mentioned in the New Scientist Magazine,

*"Desholm and Kahlert found that the birds flew almost exclusively down the corridors between the turbines, with less than 1 per cent getting close enough to risk collision. The birds gave the turbines an even wider berth at night, sticking more closely to the middle of the corridors. Many also avoided the wind farm altogether. (Biology Letters, DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2005.0336)."*<sup>7</sup>

The Bat Conservation Trust have said that they support alternative energy sources but would also like to see more formal studies into small wind turbines and their effects on bats.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.windpower.org/en/tour/env/birds.htm> accessed 23/01/2007

<sup>7</sup> New Scientist, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2005