

## PAW Scotland Bird of Prey Crime Hotspot Maps 2011-2015

### Maps

[Map 1: Bird of prey poisoning incidents in Scotland 2011-2015](#) shows the distribution of incidents of confirmed poisoning abuse reported to Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) from January 2011 to December 2015.

[Map 2: Bird of prey poisoning incidents in Scotland 2015](#) shows the distribution of incidents of confirmed poisoning abuse reported to SASA for 2015 only.

[Map 3: All bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland 2013-2015](#) shows the distribution of all criminal incidents involving a bird of prey species recorded by Police Scotland from January 2013 to December 2015.

[Map 4: All bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland 2015](#) shows the distribution of all criminal incidents involving a bird of prey species recorded by Police Scotland for 2015 only.

[Map 5: Other poison baits, Scotland, 2011-2015](#) shows the distribution of poison abuse incidents involving the discovery of baits (and associated non-raptor species) only. The purpose of this new map is to highlight incidents which posed a significant threat to birds of prey, even where none were actually confirmed poisoned.

The maps show incidents where birds of prey have been confirmed as victims of poisoning, shooting, illegal trapping, nest destruction, disturbance or other types of crime. Where several incidents have been reported for the same area, the number of incidents has been aggregated to show 'hotspots'; the greater the number of incidents the larger the 'spot'.

For the maps showing wider persecution, new data will be added each year, until it is possible to show five years on one map, as with the poisoning incidents.

**Note:** Details of five 2015 crimes (or suspected crimes), including one poisoning incident, have been withheld for police operational reasons. The location of these incidents therefore cannot be included on the hotspot maps at the time of publication. However, the crimes are included in the totals published in the summary tables in this booklet. Details of an additional suspected 2015 incident were received by Police Scotland shortly before publication of the maps and background data. If, upon investigation, this incident is recorded as a crime by Police Scotland, it will be included in future PAW publications.

## Tables

Please note that the number of poisoning **incidents** does not indicate the number of birds poisoned. For a summary of the number of birds of prey poisoned over this period please see [Table 1](#).

Tables [2a](#) and [2b](#) show a summary of all the bird of prey crimes recorded in 2013-2015 by species involved, and by type of crime. As it may not always be possible to quantify the number of birds affected by, for example, a case of disturbance, this table shows the number of recorded crimes. Tables [3a-3c](#) provide a year by year breakdown of these recorded crimes.

Some of the poisoning incidents also involved the recovery of poisoned baits and poisoned corvids, along with the carcasses of the birds of prey that were poisoned. A full detailed account of each incident is available in Tables [4a-4e](#).

Tables [5a-5c](#) provide further details of each recorded bird of prey crime between 2013 and 2015 respectively.

Following a request from the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, PAW Scotland investigated the possibility of producing an additional map showing the location of poisoned baits which were not already linked to a confirmed bird of prey poisoning. A new map (Map 5) has therefore been included, showing the distribution of such incidents, based on the following criteria:

- Incident classed as abuse by SASA
- Not associated with a known raptor poisoning abuse incident already displayed on the poisoning maps
- Type of poison likely to be lethal to raptors
- Type of bait attractive to raptors
- Placed in an exposed, outdoor, location.

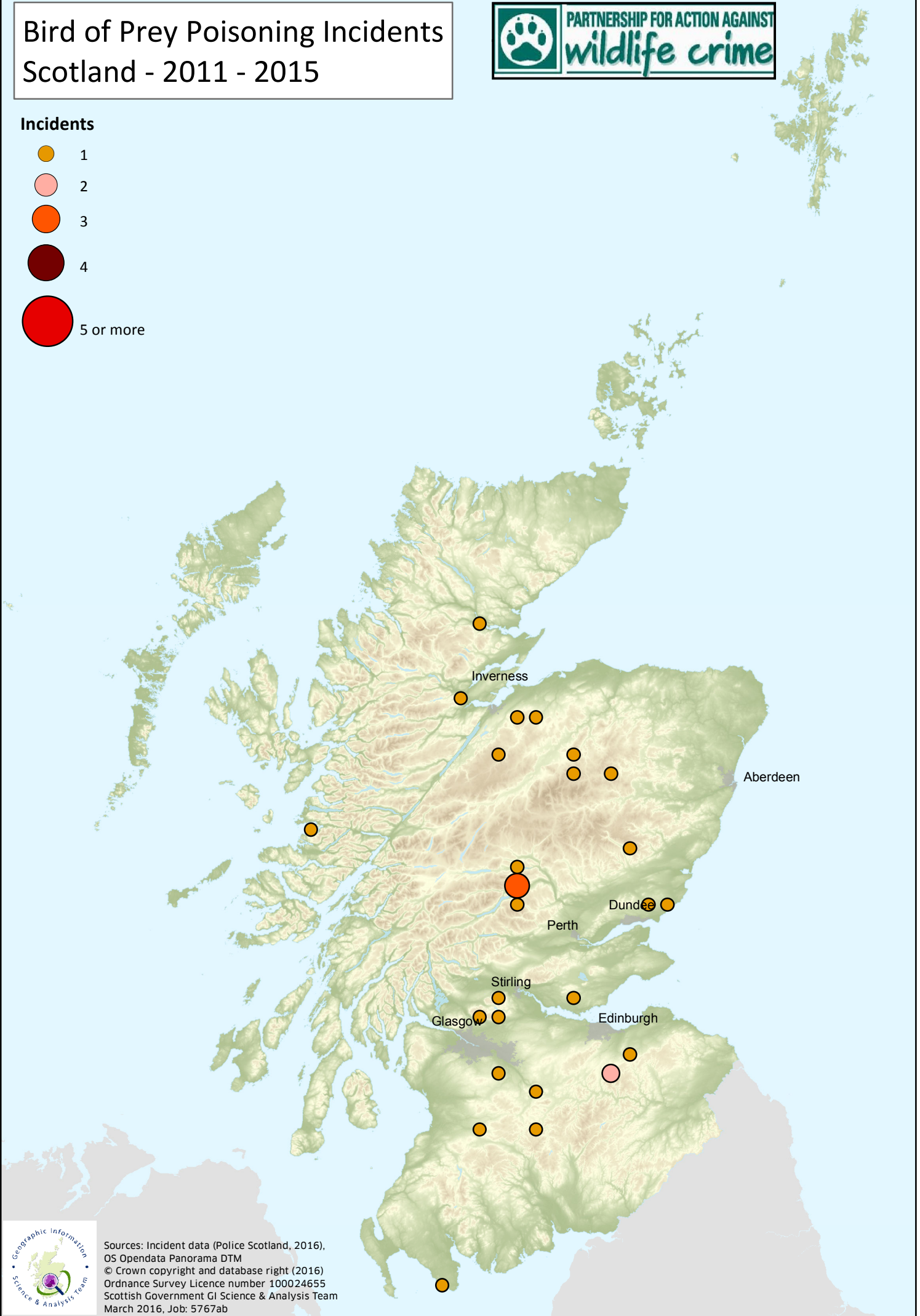
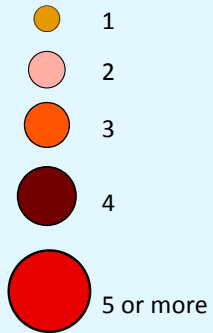
Background details of the incidents included in this new map are available in [Table 6](#).

The inclusion of another map showing locations of illegal traps targeted at raptors, but which had not actually caught a raptor, was also considered. However, as the existing recorded crime maps already include incidents recorded by Police Scotland as attempted raptor trapping offences, it was not thought there was sufficient value in publishing a further map showing these incidents separately.

# Bird of Prey Poisoning Incidents Scotland - 2011 - 2015



## Incidents

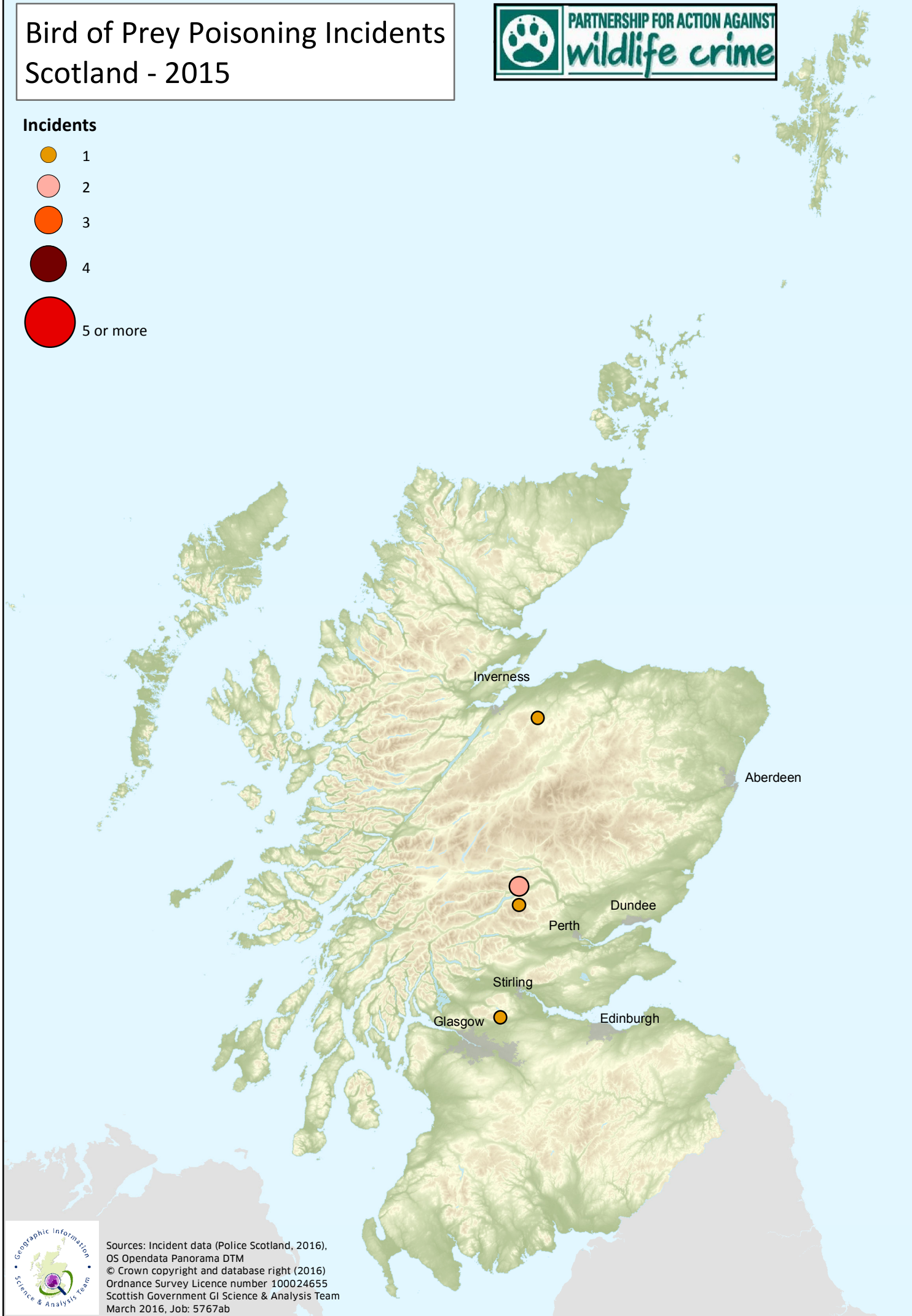
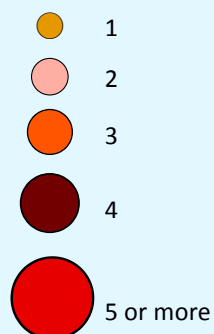


Sources: Incident data (Police Scotland, 2016),  
OS Opendata Panorama DTM  
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Scottish Government GI Science & Analysis Team  
March 2016, Job: 5767ab

# Bird of Prey Poisoning Incidents Scotland - 2015



## Incidents



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# All Recorded Bird of Prey Crimes Scotland - 2013 to 2015

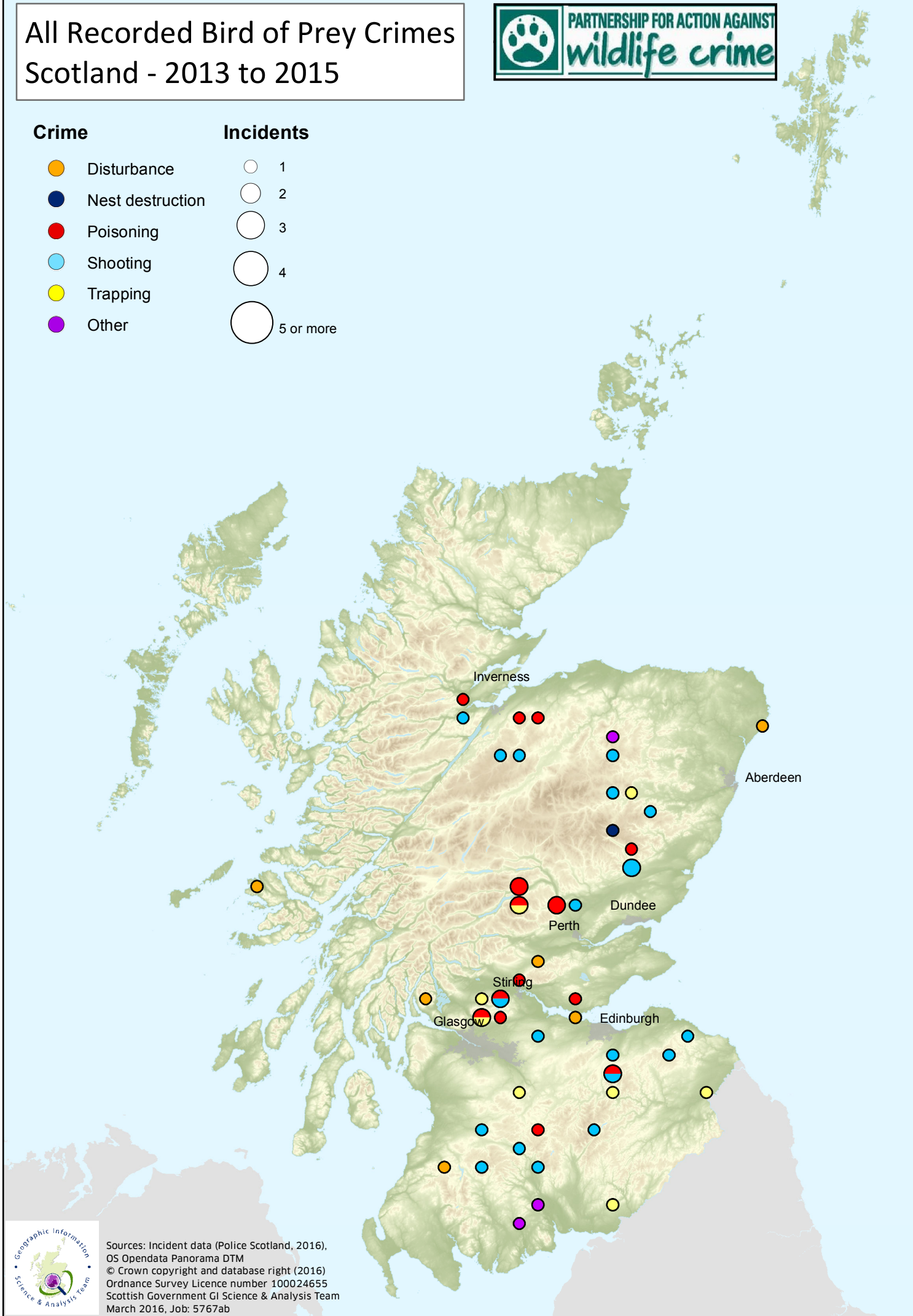


## Crime

- Disturbance
- Nest destruction
- Poisoning
- Shooting
- Trapping
- Other

## Incidents

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more



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# All Recorded Bird of Prey Crimes Scotland - 2015

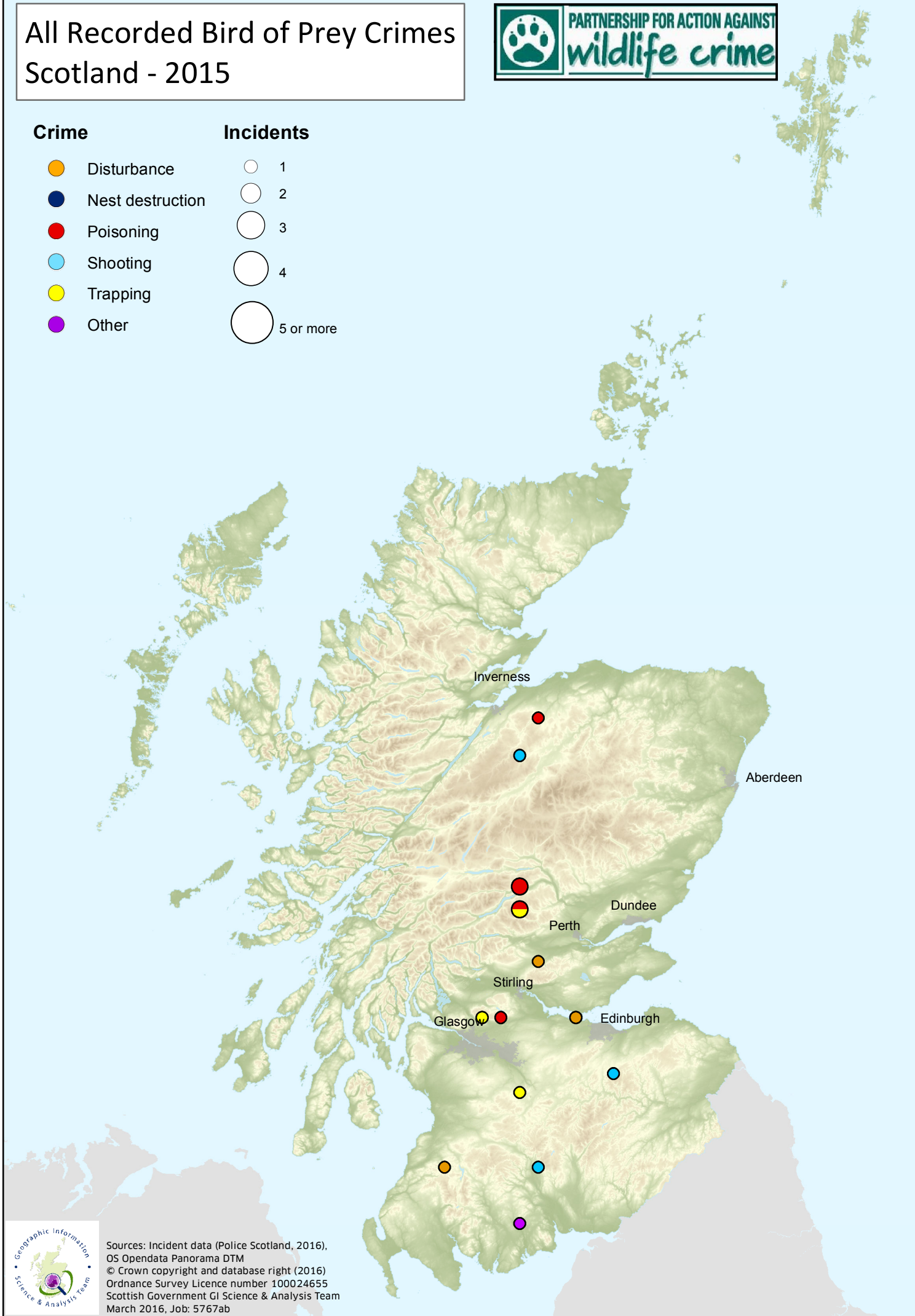


## Crime

- Disturbance
- Nest destruction
- Poisoning
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- Other

## Incidents

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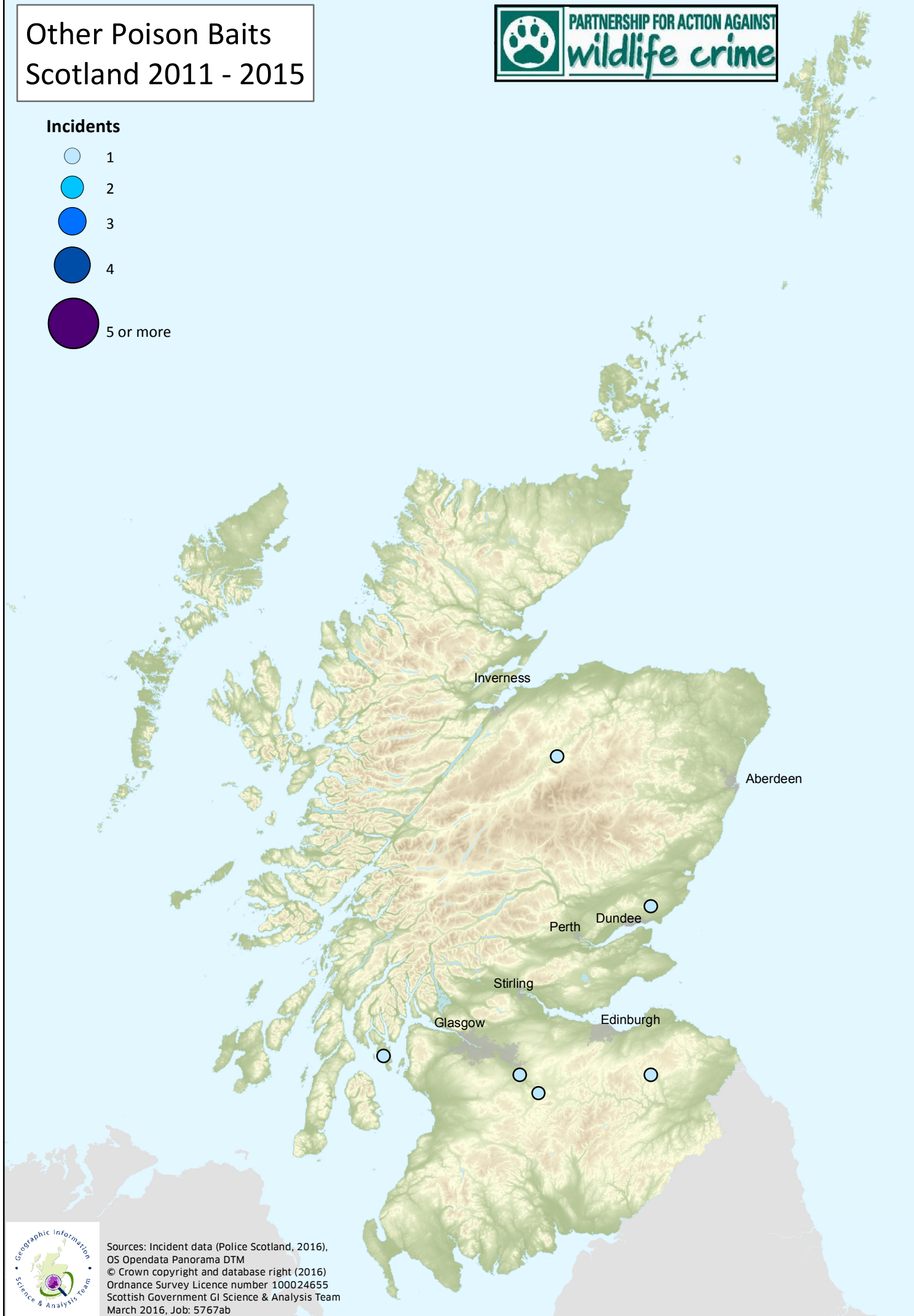
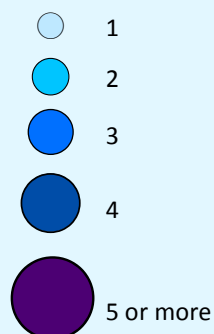
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# Other Poison Baits Scotland 2011 - 2015



## Incidents



Sources: Incident data (Police Scotland, 2016),  
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**Table 1: Bird of Prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2011-2015**

**Source: SASA**

Year	Numbers of Birds Poisoned (by Species)							Number of Incidents
	Buzzard	Red kite	Peregrine falcon	Golden eagle	Sparrowhawk	Species not yet disclosed	Total	
2011	7	4	2	1	2	0	16	10
2012	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	3
2013	4	1	0	1	0	0	6	6
2014	5	14	1	0	0	0	20	5
2015	3	2	1	0	0	1*	7*	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1*</b>	<b>52*</b>	<b>30</b>

\* As details of one 2015 poisoning incident have been withheld for police operational reasons, the number of individual birds poisoned in the "Species not yet disclosed" column, and related totals, may be subject to change.



**Table 2a: Recorded bird of prey crimes 2013-2015, by species involved**

Year	Number of incidents, by species involved												
	Buzzard	Red kite	Peregrine falcon	Goshawk	Hen harrier	Osprey	Golden eagle	Tawny owl	White-tailed eagle	Red kite & Buzzard	Unknown	Species not yet disclosed	All
2013	13	3	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	23
2014	5	3	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	18
2015	4	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	20
Total	22	10	6	4	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	5	61

**Table 2b: Recorded bird of prey crimes 2013-2015, by type of crime**

Year	Number of incidents, by type of crime						
	Shooting	Poisoning	Trapping	Disturbance	Nest destruction	Other	All
<b>2013</b>	11	6	3	2	1	0	<b>23</b>
<b>2014</b>	8	5	2	1	0	2	<b>18</b>
<b>2015</b>	5	6	3	5	0	1	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>61</b>

**Note:** Tables 2a and 2b show the number of incidents, not the number of individual birds killed or harmed.

**Table 3a: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2013 by species involved and type of crime**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Type of Crime	Number of incidents, by species involved								Total Incidents
	Red kite	Buzzard	Peregrine falcon	Golden eagle	Osprey	Hen Harrier	Tawny owl	White-tailed eagle	
Shooting	2	7				2			11
Poisoning	1	4		1					6
Trapping		2					1		3
Disturbance			1		1				2
Nest destruction								1	1
Other									0
All	3	13	1	1	1	2	1	1	23

**Note:** A golden eagle was found dead on Oronsay in June 2012. Whilst it was initially thought that there were no suspicious circumstances, it was later discovered in 2013 that the eagle had, at some point, been shot. This incident has not been included in the 2013 hotspot map or background data as it is known that the crime took place in a previous year.

**Table 3b: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2014 by species involved and type of crime**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Type of Crime	Number of incidents, by species involved									Total Incidents
	Red kite	Buzzard	Red kite & buzzard	Peregrine falcon	Golden eagle	Goshawk	Hen Harrier	Tawny owl	Unknown	
Shooting	1	3		2			1	1		8
Poisoning	2	1	1	1						5
Trapping						1			1	2
Disturbance					1					1
Other		1				1				2
All	3	5	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	18

**Table 3c: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2015 by species involved and type of crime**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Type of Crime	Number of incidents, by species involved							Total
	Buzzard	Red kite	Goshawk	Osprey	Peregrine falcon	Hen harrier	Species not yet disclosed	
Shooting	1	1				1	2	5
Poisoning	2	2			1		1	6
Trapping	1	1	1					3
Disturbance				2	1		2	5
Other			1					1
All	4	4	2	2	2	1	5	20

**Note:** Tables 3a-3c show the number of incidents, not the number of individual birds killed or harmed.



**Table 4a: Birds of prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2011**  
**Source: SASA**

	Ref.	Chemical	Buzzard	Red kite	Golden eagle	Peregrine Falcon	Sparrowhawk	ALL BIRDS OF PREY	Bait type	Other species confirmed poisoned	Month	Force
2011	11006	Carbofuran	1					1			January	Lothian & Borders
	11020	Chloralose		1				1			February	Northern
	11024	Strychnine				2		2	Pigeon		February	Strathclyde
	11041	Chloralose	2					2	Pheasant x2	Crow x2	March	Tayside
	11046	Carbofuran	1		1			2			March	Grampian
	11054	Aldicarb Carbofuran	1					1			April	Northern
	11083	Bendiocarb Carbofuran		1				1			May	Northern
	11115	Carbofuran		1				1			July	Dumfries & Galloway
	11147	Carbofuran	2				2	4			September	Lothian & Borders
	11153	Carbofuran		1				1			September	Strathclyde
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>				

**Table 4b: Birds of prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2012**  
**Source: SASA**

	Ref.	Chemical	Buzzard	Golden eagle	ALL BIRDS OF PREY	Bait Type	Month	Force
2012	12042	Aldicarb & Bendiocarb		1	1		March	Northern
	12138	Carbofuran	1		1		September	Grampian
	12170	Carbofuran	1		1	Pheasant	December	Dumfries & Galloway
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>			

**Table 4c: Birds of prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2013**  
**Source: SASA**

	Ref.	Chemical	Buzzard	Red Kite	Golden eagle	ALL BIRDS OF PREY	Month	Division*
2013	13035	Mevinphos		1		1	March	Forth Valley
	13045	Carbofuran	1			1	March	Tayside
	13062	Carbofuran	1			1	April	Tayside
	13135	Carbofuran	1			1	June	Lothians & Scottish Borders
	13179	Chloralose	1			1	September	Tayside
	13197	Carbofuran			1	1	November	Tayside
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>		

\* From 1 April 2013, Scotland's eight regional police forces were replaced with a single Scottish police force, made up of 14 regional divisions. For consistency, all incidents from January 2013 onwards are recorded in this background data using the new regional divisions.



**Table 4d: Birds of prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2014**  
**Source: SASA**

	Ref.	Chemical	Buzzard	Red Kite	Peregrine falcon	ALL BIRDS OF PREY	Bait Type	Month	Division
2014	14035	Carbofuran			1	1	Pigeon (from DNA sample)	February	Lanarkshire
	14037	Withheld	4	12		16	Withheld	March/April	Highlands and Islands
	14057	Withheld	1			1		April	Fife
	14097	Carbofuran		1		1	Brown hare	July	Forth Valley
	14139	Withheld		1		1	Withheld	September	Highlands and Islands
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>			

**Table 4e: Birds of prey confirmed poisonings in Scotland in 2015**  
**Source: SASA**

	Ref.	Chemical	Buzzard	Red Kite	Peregrine falcon	Species not yet disclosed	ALL BIRDS OF PREY	Bait type	Month	Division
2015	15011	Carbofuran			1			Red Grouse	January	Forth Valley
	15069	Withheld		1				Withheld	January	Tayside
	15060	Withheld	2					Withheld	March	Tayside
	15127	Withheld	1					Withheld	May	Tayside
	15194	Withheld		1				Withheld	October	Highlands
	Withheld	Withheld				1*		Withheld	Withheld	Withheld
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1*</b>	<b>7*</b>			

\* As details of one 2015 poisoning incident have been withheld for police operational reasons, the number of individual birds poisoned in the "Species not yet disclosed" column, and related totals, may be subject to change.

**Table 5a: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2013 – incident details**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Species	Division	Type of Crime	Date
White-tailed Eagle	Tayside	Nest Destruction	January
Buzzard	Forth Valley	Shooting	February
Buzzard	Aberdeenshire and Moray*	Shooting	February
Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	March
Red Kite	Forth Valley	Poisoning	March
Buzzard	Lothians & Scottish Borders	Shooting	March
Buzzard	Forth Valley	Trapping	March
Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	April
Red Kite	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Shooting	April
Tawny Owl	Lothians & Scottish Borders	Trapping	April
Hen Harrier	Aberdeenshire	Shooting	May
Osprey	Forth Valley	Disturbance	June
Buzzard	Tayside	Shooting	June
Hen Harrier	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Shooting	June
Buzzard	Lothians & Scottish Borders	Poisoning (bird also shot at some point)	June
Peregrine	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Disturbance	July
Buzzard	Renfrewshire & Inverclyde*	Shooting	July
Red Kite	Lanarkshire	Shooting	August
Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	September
Buzzard	Dumfries & Galloway	Trapping	September
Buzzard	Tayside	Shooting	October
Golden Eagle	Tayside	Poisoning	November
Buzzard	Highlands & Islands	Shooting	December

\* These two incidents could not be included on the hotspot maps as the incident location was unknown.

Additionally, a golden eagle was found dead on Oronsay in June 2012. Whilst it was initially thought that there were no suspicious circumstances, it was later discovered in 2013 that the eagle had, at some point, been shot. This incident has not been included in the 2013 hotspot map or background data as it is known that the crime took place in a previous year.



**Table 5b: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2014 – incident details**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Year	Species	Division	Type of Crime	Date
2014	Peregrine	Lanarkshire	Poisoning	February
2014	Goshawk	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Trapping (attempted)	March
2014	Red Kite/Buzzard	Highlands and Islands	Poisoning	March
2014	Buzzard	Dumfries and Galloway	Other (taking a bird)	April
2014	Peregrine	Forth Valley	Shooting	April
2014	Buzzard	Fife	Poisoning	April
2014	Goshawk	Aberdeenshire and Moray	Other (attempt to disturb and kill a bird)	May
2014	Hen Harrier	Ayrshire	Shooting	May
2014	Buzzard	Forth Valley	Shooting	June
2014	Golden Eagle	Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	Disturbance	June
2014	Red Kite	Highlands and Islands	Shooting	July
2014	Red Kite	Forth Valley	Poisoning	July
2014	Peregrine	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	September
2014	Unknown	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Trapping (attempted)	September
2014	Red Kite	Highlands and Islands	Poisoning	September
2014	Buzzard	Tayside	Shooting	October
2014	Buzzard	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	October
2014	Tawny Owl	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	December

**Table 5c: Bird of prey crimes recorded in Scotland in 2015 – incident details**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Year	Species	Division	Type of Crime	Date
2015	Peregrine	Forth Valley	Poisoning	January
2015	Red kite	Tayside	Poisoning	January
2015	Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	March
2015	Buzzard	Tayside	Trapping	April
2015	Hen harrier	Lanarkshire	Shooting	April
2015	Red kite	Forth Valley	Trapping	May
2015	Buzzard	Tayside	Poisoning	May
2015	Peregrine	Fife	Disturbance	June
2015	Osprey	Ayrshire	Disturbance	June
2015	Goshawk	Dumfries and Galloway	Other (chick theft)	June
2015	Osprey	Tayside	Disturbance	July
2015	Buzzard	Lothians and Scottish Borders	Shooting	July
2015	Red kite	Highlands	Shooting	August
2015	Goshawk	Lanarkshire	Trapping (attempted)	September
2015	Red kite	Highlands	Poisoning	October
2015	Withheld	Withheld	Shooting	Withheld
2015	Withheld	Withheld	Shooting	Withheld
2015	Withheld	Withheld	Poisoning	Withheld
2015	Withheld	Withheld	Disturbance	Withheld
2015	Withheld	Withheld	Disturbance	Withheld

**Table 6: Other poison baits, Scotland, 2011-2015 – incident details**  
**Source: Police Scotland**

Year	Month	Ref.	Chemical	Bait type	Other species confirmed poisoned*	Force/Division
2011	September	11158	Aldicarb	Grouse		Northern
2012	May	12070	Bendiocarb	Meat and 2x rabbit	Raven	Lothian & Borders
2013	February	13013	Carbofuran	Pigeon	Cat	Tayside
2013	February	13015	Metaldehyde	Meat	Dog	Argyll and West Dunbartonshire
2013	March	13036	Carbofuran	2x game bags and contents		Lanarkshire
2014	January	14008	Carbofuran / Chloralose	Rabbit and hare	Rook	Lanarkshire