



The Buzzard has since been released back into the wild

Image: Stephanie Callister-Jarrold

Shot buzzard in miracle recovery

Bird was found by woman while running

By HALLE GROVES

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A BIRD rescue is “thrilled” to release a buzzard back into the wild after it was shot near Halstead.

Owls and Birds of Prey Rescue Suffolk and Essex is run by Stephanie Callister-Jarrold.

The charity rescues injured and orphaned owls and birds of prey before releasing them back into the wild.

A young woman found an injured buzzard in Bulmer Tye in April.

Stephanie said: “A young lady was out with a running group and spotted the bird, but she had nothing to pick it up with.

“I made contact with her and she kindly met me where she had seen the bird.

“The buzzard couldn’t stand and was flying lop-sided so I took him straight over to Robert at Linkwood Vets.”

Tests and X-rays were performed on the bird, which revealed the buzzard had been shot in the leg.

Luckily, the pellet hadn’t shattered the bird’s bone but had badly damaged its hip.

Stephanie said: “We were in a dilemma – we didn’t know what to do.

“If it was a dog you’d amputate, if it was a cat it would need cage rest.

“The buzzard was in such a mess we couldn’t have operated.

“We didn’t have a clue – we hadn’t come across anything like it before.”

Stephanie decided to keep the buzzard in aviary rest for four weeks, and after the first week the hip began to heal.

The bird went from strength to strength, and began to stand comfortably and fly, as well as hanging upside down from the wire roof.

The bird spent some time at a pre-release aviary in Pebmarsh to get the buzzard as close to where it was found as possible.

After the buzzard had healed completely, Stephanie let the bird back into the wild.

She said: “The legs were fine,

the wings were fine, so we let him go.

“We went down to open the door after he’d eaten, and as soon as the doors were open he swooped straight out.

“He flew across the fields being chased by a crow, and went off to the woods at the end of the field.”

Stephanie said in cases such as this, the only option is usually to put the bird to sleep.

However, she wanted to give the buzzard as much time as it needed, and was thrilled to see the bird get better.

Stephanie said: “The buzzard made a miraculous recovery.

“It was absolutely amazing, everybody was so thrilled.

“But you have to question what idiot is shooting birds of prey that are protected?

– “It’s a sad indictment and we’ll never know who or why, and that’s the problem.

“It makes you wary of releasing birds anywhere near Bulmer.”

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