

Sea eagles do not need to be a risk to farmers' lambs

These magnificent birds should be re-introduced to southern Britain

Feeding habits: a sea eagle, Britain's biggest bird of prey, takes to the skies with a fish

Photo: Alamy



SIR - I have 400 ewes lambing outside from December to the middle of March, on the edge of Salisbury Plain.

In November 2007, a sea eagle appeared on my farm, and remained here until late March. I saw this magnificent raptor on many occasions, but never on our lambing fields. It was content to pick over dead rabbits and the odd road kill.

Suggestions by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that farmers should lamb in polytunnels to avoid eagles are ridiculous. These birds are naturally pretty lazy, and all that is required is a relaxation of the current over-zealous regulations on the disposal of dead farm animals. The odd dead sheep left in a discreet locality would be more than enough to meet their needs.

Such measures would allow this beautiful bird to return to the skies of southern Britain for all to see.

Henry Edmunds
Salisbury, Wiltshire

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