

## Birds injured, some fatally, by fishing hooks and lines in Boggart Hole Clough during 2006



This photo, taken 27.8.2006, shows a heron in the back of an RSPCA van at the Clough. The RSPCA had received a report that the bird had swallowed a fishing line. They therefore caught the heron and took it to the Three Owls Bird Sanctuary. The bird was x-rayed, found to have regurgitated the fishing line, and released. This incident is not recorded in the list below.

Information below quoted from emails Trust received 15.11.06 and 16.11.06 from Nigel S. Fowler, Trustee of the Three Owls Bird Sanctuary & Reserve, Norden, Rochdale.

**“...These are all admittances (from the Clough) during 2006...”**

1. **Moorhen.** Line around leg imbedded. Unable to repair. Leg removed. Bird in sanctuary aviary.
2. **Mallard.** Line around legs causing swelling and wounds. Line removed. 10 day course of antibiotics. Bird later released.
3. **Mute Swan.** Hook in neck. Removed at vets. Bird released after treatment.
4. **Canada Goose.** Leg badly infected and damaged due to fishing line. Bird had to be put to sleep.
5. **Cygnets.** Line wrapped around beak, down throat and into crop. Lacerations in mouth. Very underweight due to not able to feed. Line removed at vets but bird died two days later.
6. **Mallard.** Hook through beak just above nostrils. Removed at vets. Bird released after course of treatment.
7. **Canada Goose.** Hook in tip of beak. Removed on site. Slightly infected. Bird released after course of treatment.
8. **Mute Swan.** Treble hook and line in leg. It took ½ hour and 3 people to remove the hooks and line safely. The bird had lost a great deal of blood, and chunks of flesh had been ripped from its leg. After a course of treatment during which the bird had no use of its leg at all it was successfully returned to full fitness and put back into the wild...

**... We would not consider returning ANY rehabilitated wildfowl to Boggart Hole Clough until it has been cleaned up sufficiently not to present a danger to their lives...”**

The above information was presented to BHCCAT's 13.12.06 Open Meeting –  
Minutes of meeting can be found on BHCCAT website.