



Birds, Beasts and Bedlam

Turning My Farm into an Ark for Lost Species

Derek Gow

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***Birds, Beasts and Bedlam* recounts the adventures of farmer-turned-maverick ecologist Derek Gow, who is saving Britain's most threatened species.**

“Gow wants his farm to be a breeding colony, a seedbed for a denuded island.”

—*The New Yorker*

Derek Gow's first book, *Bringing Back the Beaver*, was his riotously funny and subversive account of reintroducing beavers to Britain. *Birds, Beasts and Bedlam* continues the story of his rewilding adventures with some of our most at-risk species and is a must-read for fans of Mary Roach's *Fuzz* and Nate Blakeslee's *American Wolf*. Discover how Derek reared a delicate roe deer and a sofa-loving wild boar piglet, transported a raging bison bull across the UK, got bitten by a Scottish wildcat, returned honking skeins of graylag geese to land that was once theirs, and restored the ancient white stork to the Knepp Estate along with pioneering conservationists Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree.

Birds, Beasts and Bedlam also details Gow's mission to save many species by transforming his traditional Devon farm into a wildlife breeding center. His farm is now a haven for beavers, water voles, lynx, wildcats, harvest mice, and more, with the ultimate aim of reestablishing them in their rightful British habitats.

Tearing down fences literally and metaphorically, Derek Gow is the one person with the character and strength of will to defy authority, bend the rules, and save our wildlife.

“Gow reinvents what it means to be a guardian of the countryside.”—*The Guardian*

“[He] has a fire in his belly. We need more like him.”—*BBC Wildlife*

About the Author



Derek Gow is a farmer and nature conservationist who has played a significant role in the reintroduction of the Eurasian beaver, the water vole, and the white stork in England. His conservation work has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, BBC, *The London Times*, and numerous other national and international media. Born in Dundee in 1965, he left school when he was 17 and worked in agriculture. Inspired by the writing of Gerald Durrell, he managed a wildlife park in Scotland in the late 1990s before developing two nature centers in England. He lives with his children on a 300-acre farm on the Devon/Cornwall border which he is in the process of rewilding.

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