



Perched Raptors



Photo: Tom Hodggetts



Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

- Wingspan 110-130cm.
- Wide range of shades from dark brown to almost white, usually uniform on back and upper wing but variable and mottled on breast and under wing.
- Very vocal, piercing, mewing call, often heard before seen.
- Eats voles, rabbits, small birds and carrion.
- Commonly seen perching on fence posts or telegraph poles by the side of the road.
- Often mistaken for an eagle but the size difference is massive.

Photo: Mark Hamblin



Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

- Wingspan 190-225cm.
- Wings appear narrower than white-tailed eagle. Long fan-shaped tail, dark in adults, but with pale band in juveniles.
- Adults have uniform brown plumage. Head and neck appear golden in bright light. Dark grey beak.
- Young birds have pale disc shaped patches on each wing.
- Yelping or whistling call, seldom heard.
- Eats rabbits, hares, game birds and carrion.
- Usually seen in mountainous areas.

Photo: George Rankine



White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

- Wingspan 190-240cm.
- Massive broad wings. Head and tail protruding equal amounts front and back. Wedge shaped tail, dark in juveniles becoming white in adults.
- Adults have pale buff head, uniformly brown body plumage and bright yellow beak, feet and eyes.
- Juveniles have a dark brown or mottled plumage, dark brown head, dark beak and eyes.
- Very vocal, high pitched yelping call.
- Eats seabirds, fish, mammals and carrion.
- Most commonly seen in coastal areas or close to large lochs.



Buzzard or Eagle?

The three most commonly mistaken birds of prey in Scotland



Buzzard
Buteo buteo



Golden Eagle
Aquila chrysaetos



White-tailed Eagle
Haliaeetus albicilla

