



# 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, mewling 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



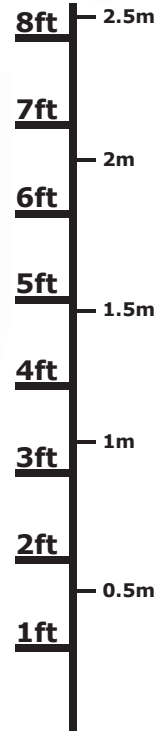
**Buzzard**  
*Buteo buteo*



**Golden Eagle**  
*Aquila chrysaetos*



**White-tailed Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus albicilla*



Images by Mike Langman [rspb-images.com](http://rspb-images.com)