

# British Birds of Prey

# GOLDEN EAGLE

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Golden eagles are the world's most widespread species of eagle, found all throughout the northern hemisphere. In the UK, there is a small breeding population of about 440 pairs, almost exclusively in Scotland.

They disappeared from England and Wales during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a result of illegal shooting and poisoning. Scottish birds also suffered from pesticide use, but thankfully recent conservation efforts have seen numbers rise.

It is the UK's second largest bird of prey, after the white-tailed eagle.



▲ Tosca, Huxley's female golden eagle hybrid.

<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Northern hemisphere, Scotland
<b>WILD POPULATION</b>	440 UK pairs est., up to 100,000 pairs est. worldwide
<b>WINGSPAN</b>	Approx. 200 to 220 cm
<b>SIZE &amp; WEIGHT</b>	Approx. 75 to 90 cm long, 3 to 6.6 kg
<b>LIFESPAN</b>	23 years on average, up to 32 in the wild
<b>MAIN DIET</b>	Large birds, large mammals, carrion

## FACT FILE

# Golden Eagle

Their name comes from a paler patch of feathers on the back of their head and neck. Juveniles are darker and may not obtain their adult plumage for six years!

Most golden eagles are found in mountainous areas, up to 3,600 metres above sea level! Across their widespread distribution, they inhabit a range of habitats including woodlands, grasslands and tundra. A pair's territory may be as large as 75 square miles! When hunting or displaying, they can reach speeds over 100 mph, and despite their size can even reach 200 mph in a stoop (dive), very nearly as quick as a peregrine falcon! They can carry up to 3 ½ kilograms in their talons.



## WORDSEARCH

There are 60 different species of eagle, five of which can be found at Huxley's! Can you find some of them in the wordsearch?

L	T	U	Z	M	I	S	A	L	W	U	E	S	O	M
N	C	H	G	D	E	L	S	W	L	H	D	E	C	D
Y	A	H	N	T	P	T	G	B	G	S	A	O	E	D
I	A	V	I	S	E	N	S	I	E	Y	T	R	D	U
U	N	E	N	L	R	H	A	Y	S	T	E	P	P	E
P	M	T	L	S	E	F	V	E	A	L	A	W	L	Y
G	A	E	L	N	E	A	T	W	T	G	D	N	T	W
T	R	I	E	T	H	U	N	P	B	I	E	S	N	B
S	T	L	A	E	T	Y	S	B	R	D	T	L	D	A
L	I	T	P	B	O	I	L	R	L	L	P	E	R	T
B	A	L	D	E	E	D	F	O	T	U	M	Y	A	E
S	L	E	U	A	H	E	G	T	H	R	E	P	T	L
H	P	N	S	L	I	M	W	E	A	I	Y	E	X	E
S	E	W	H	I	T	E	T	A	I	L	E	D	S	U
W	I	P	K	A	U	J	E	O	N	W	U	S	O	R

GOLDEN

STEPPE

TAWNY

BATELEUR

CHILEAN BLUE

WHITE TAILED

STELLER'S

MARTIAL

HARPY

BALD

# Golden Eagle

Golden eagles will often hunt in pairs, with one chasing the prey to exhaustion before the other swoops down for the kill. However, they have been recorded to use at least seven different hunting techniques! They are also used in falconry, both for hunting and to scare predators away from livestock. Golden eagles are highly respected in Mongolia, and it forms a big part of their heritage: eagle hunting in Asia dates back over four thousand years!



## ANAGRAMS

Eagles are hugely powerful apex predators. Golden eagles able to kill prey weighing up to 30 kg. which is about five times heavier than themselves!

Unscramble these words to reveal some of the animals they hunt.



T A R B I B S

— — — — —

R I S Q U E R L S

— — — — —

B L A S M

— — — — —

S W A N F

— — — — —

H A N P E S S A T

— — — — —

K N A S E S

— — — — —

O S T E R I S O T

— — — — —

# Golden Eagle

## CRACK THE CODE

Use the code below to decipher some facts about the breeding habits of golden eagles.

A = ○	E = ∪	I = ◻	M = ⊙	Q = ●	U = ∇	Y = ⊖
B = ◻	F = ∇	J = ▽	N = ◻	R = ◻	V = ⚡	Z = ◆
C = ▲	G = ◻	K = ✕	O = ★	S = ◻	W = ◻	
D = ①	H = ◆	L = ∪	P = △	T = ◆	X = ▽	

○ ◻ ∪ ○ ◻ ∪ ∪ ◻ ∪ ◻ ◆  
 A N E A G L E \_\_\_\_\_

∪ ⊖ ◻ ◻ ∪  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is called an \_\_\_\_\_.

∪ ○ ◻ ∪ ∪ ▲ ◆ ◻ ▲ ✕ ◻  
 \_\_\_\_\_ are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

∪ ○ ◻ ∪ ∪ ◆ ◻  
 \_\_\_\_\_

◆ ◆ ∪ ◻ ◻ ◻ ∪ ◻ ◻ ◻ ○ ◻ ∪ ⚡ ∪ ⊖ ∪ ○ ◻ ◻ ∪ ◆ ◆ ∪  
 \_\_\_\_\_

◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ∪ ◻ ◆ ◻ ○ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ▽ ◻ ∪ ◆ ◻ ◻ ∪ ◻ ◆ ○ ∪ ∪  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Golden eagles typically ◻ ∪ ◻ ◆ ★ ◻ ▲ ∪ ◻ ∪ ∪ ∪ ○ ▲ ∪ ◻, but

may use ◻ ○ ◻ ◻ ○ ○ ① ∪ ◻ ◆ ◻ ∪ ▲ ◆ ∪ ◻ ∪ ◻ ∪ ◻ ✕ ∪ ▲ ⊖ ∪ ★ ◻ ◻