





## Birds of prey


Diurnal birds of prey (raptors)


 [Common buzzard](#)  
The common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) is widespread and prominent, soaring in the air


 [Golden eagle](#)  
The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Britain's most majestic bird of prey, is confined mainly to Scotland


 [Goshawk](#)  
The goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is a large but secretive woodland bird of prey

 [Kestrel](#)  
The kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) can be seen hovering at the roadside, but is less common than in the recent past


 [Hen harrier](#)  
Hen harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) breed on moorland and winter on more low-lying sites around the country

 [Hobby](#)  
The hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) catches dragonflies as well as hirundines such as martins and swallows


 [Honey buzzard](#)  
Honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) is a rare breeding visitor that feeds on wasps, bees and their larvae


 [Marsh harrier](#)  
Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) has staged a wonderful recovery from five pairs to several hundred


 [Merlin](#)  
The merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Britain's smallest falcon, breeds on moorland and in winter can be seen causing panic among waders and waterfowl


 [Montagu's harrier](#)  
Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*) is a very rare breeding visitor at the limit of its northern range


 [Osprey](#)  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) has recovered from extinction in the UK to several hundred breeding pairs, mainly in Scotland but also in Wales and England

 [Peregrine](#)  
The emblem of the Hawk and Owl Trust, the Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) is the largest falcon breeding in Britain

 [Red kite](#)  
Reintroduction of the red kite (*Milvus milvus*) to England and Scotland has been one of the major conservation success stories of recent times

 [Rough-legged buzzard](#)  
The rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) is an uncommon visitor to Britain which has never bred here

 [Sparrowhawk](#)  
Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) is the bird of prey most likely to be seen in the garden, but is less familiar to many than buzzard or kestrel.

 [White-tailed eagle](#)  
The white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), sometimes known as the sea eagle, is the largest bird of prey in Europe and has been successfully reintroduced to Scotland