Nature Quiz
British Birds - Birds of Prey

Birds of prey are birds that hunt for food primarily on the wing, using their keen senses, especially vision. Because of their predatory lifestyle, often at the top of the food chain, they face distinct conservation concerns. See how much you know in the following Natural History quiz on the subject.

1. What is the name of this bird?
   [ ] Golden Eagle
   [ ] Montagu’s Harrier
   [ ] Common Buzzard
   [ ] White-tailed Eagle

   - Group: Buzzards, Kites and allies
   - Binomial: Circus pygargus
   - Order: Falconiformes
   - Family: Accipitridae
   - Status: Breeding Summer Visitor And Passage Migrant
   - It is an extremely rare breeding bird in the UK, and its status is precarious.
   - Each pair needs special protection.
   - It is a summer visitor, and migrates to Africa to spend the winter.
2. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Common Buzzard
[ ] Northern Goshawk
[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] White-tailed Eagle

- **Group**: Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial**: Haliaeetus albicilla
- **Order**: Falconiformes
- **Family**: Accipitridae
- **Status**: Resident Breeder And Widespread Introductions
- **It is the largest UK bird of prey.**
- **It went extinct in the UK during the early 19th century, due to illegal killing, and the present population has been reintroduced.**

3. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Common Buzzard
[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] Northern Goshawk
[ ] European Honey-buzzard

- **Group**: Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial**: Buteo buteo
- **Order**: Falconiformes
- **Family**: Accipitridae
- **Status**: Resident Breeder And Passage Migrant
- **Pairs mate for life.**
- **The male performs a ritual aerial display before the beginning of spring.**
- **This spectacular display is known as 'the roller coaster'.**
4. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] Western Marsh Harrier
[ ] Red Kite

- **Group:** Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial:** Aquila chrysaetos
- **Order:** Falconiformes
- **Family:** Accipitridae
- **Status:** Resident Breeding Species
- They use their agility and speed combined with extremely powerful talons to snatch up prey.
- Prey includes mammals such as foxes.
- They have even been known to attack and kill fully grown roe deer.

5. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] Western Marsh Harrier
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[ ] Eurasian Sparrowhawk

- **Group:** Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial:** Circus aeruginosus
- **Order:** Falconiformes
- **Family:** Accipitridae
- **Status:** Resident Breeder And Passage Migrant
- It is a protected species in many countries.
- In Britain, a single breeding female was left in 1971, whereas today over 200 pairs are present.
6. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] Hen Harrier

- **Group:** Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial:** Pernis apivorus
- **Order:** Falconiformes
- **Family:** Accipitridae
- **Status:** Breeding Summer Visitor And Passage Migrant
- The nest sites of British breeding birds are usually kept secret to protect them from egg collectors.
- It is a summer visitor to its breeding sites and spends the winter in Africa.

7. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Northern Goshawk
[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] Red Kite

- **Group:** Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial:** Circus cyaneus
- **Order:** Falconiformes
- **Family:** Accipitridae
- **Status:** Resident Breeder, Winter Visitor And Passage Migrant
- The Orkney population is polygynous, with males sometimes simultaneously mated to multiple females.
- Of the UK’s birds of prey, this is the most intensively persecuted.
8. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Red Kite
[ ] Eurasian Sparrowhawk
[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] White-tailed Eagle

- **Group**: Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial**: Milvus milvus
- **Order**: Falconiformes
- **Family**: Accipitridae
- **Status**: Resident Breeder And Widespread Introductions
- It was saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest running protection programmes.
- At signs of danger a mother will signal the young who will "play dead".

9. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Red Kite
[ ] Western Marsh Harrier
[ ] Eurasian Sparrowhawk

- **Group**: Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial**: Accipiter nisus
- **Order**: Falconiformes
- **Family**: Accipitridae
- **Status**: Resident Breeder And Passage Migrant
- The female is up to 25% larger than the male – one of the largest differences between the sexes in any bird species.
- The species features in Teutonic mythology.

10. What is the name of this bird?

[ ] Northern Goshawk
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Golden Eagle

- **Group**: Buzzards, Kites and allies
- **Binomial**: Accipiter gentilis
- **Order**: Falconiformes
- **Family**: Accipitridae
- **Status**: Resident Breeder And Naturalised Escapes
- When seen close to it has a fierce expression with bright red eyes and a distinctive white eyebrow.
- In late winter and spring it has a 'sky-dance' display.
**Answers**

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   - [x] Montagu's Harrier
   - [ ] Common Buzzard
   - [ ] White-tailed Eagle

2. **What is the name of this bird?**
   - [ ] Common Buzzard
   - [ ] Northern Goshawk
   - [ ] European Honey-buzzard
   - [x] White-tailed Eagle

3. **What is the name of this bird?**
   - [x] Common Buzzard
   - [ ] Golden Eagle
   - [ ] Northern Goshawk
   - [ ] European Honey-buzzard

4. **What is the name of this bird?**
   - [ ] Hen Harrier
   - [x] Golden Eagle
   - [ ] Western Marsh Harrier
   - [ ] Red Kite
5. What is the name of this bird?
[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[x] Western Marsh Harrier
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[ ] Eurasian Sparrowhawk

6. What is the name of this bird?
[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[x] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] Hen Harrier

7. What is the name of this bird?
[x] Hen Harrier
[ ] Northern Goshawk
[ ] Golden Eagle
[ ] Red Kite

8. What is the name of this bird?
[x] Red Kite
[ ] Eurasian Sparrowhawk
[ ] European Honey-buzzard
[ ] White-tailed Eagle

9. What is the name of this bird?
[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Red Kite
[ ] Western Marsh Harrier
[x] Eurasian Sparrowhawk
10. What is the name of this bird?

[x] Northern Goshawk
[ ] White-tailed Eagle
[ ] Hen Harrier
[ ] Golden Eagle