



Name:

Golden eagle



General info

Latin name

Aquila chrysaetos

Size

Length up to 89cm; wingspan up to 2.2 metres – wider than the armspan of an adult human!

Weight

Males weigh an average of 3.7kg – about 24 apples; females weigh an average of 5.3kg – about 35 apples.

Where they live

Golden eagles live around mountains, barren moors and forests. In the UK, you can only see them in Scotland.

How long they live

Up to 23 years.

What they eat

Mostly animals that have died of natural causes, such as sheep and deer, during winter and spring. At other times, golden eagles will catch mammals and birds, including rabbits, grouse and wading birds.



History

Golden eagles used to be seen all over the UK and Europe. In the 18th century, they were exterminated by farmers who were scared that the birds were killing their sheep. Things didn't get any better for golden eagles – in the 19th century, many gamekeepers illegally killed the birds because they eat grouse, which people like to shoot for sport. This is why there are almost no golden eagles in England or Wales.



Conservation status

The golden eagle is on the **AMBER LIST**. This means we have some concerns about this bird because their numbers are low in the UK.



What is special about this bird?

If you were a bird, you'd want to be a **golden eagle!** They are very big and powerful, but also very graceful and have spectacular display flights. They soar up high and dive down at amazing speeds, changing direction in the switch of a wing.



Fascinating fact

Golden eagles are very popular across the world. They appear on more than **10 different countries' coats of arms**, including Egypt, Ghana and Mexico.