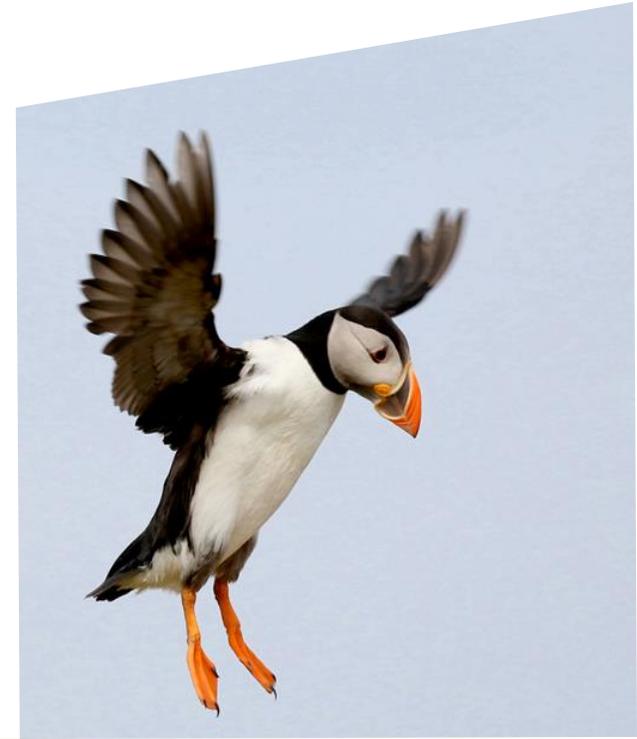




# Birds of Prey



Protecting our native species together:



The RSPB is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

# Learning Objective



- **be able to say what a bird of prey (raptor) is and**
  - what they eat,**
  - where they live,**
  - what common features they have.**
- **discover how to identify different birds, particularly birds of prey.**
- **investigate more about hen harriers in particular and what makes them special.**

# What do they eat?



Orkney Vole



Rabbit



Grasshopper



Meadow Pipit



Fish



Marsh Frog

# Where do they live?

They are found worldwide, in all sorts of habitats such as;

- **Baking deserts**
- **High mountains**
- **Tropical jungles**
- **Coastal cliffs to name but a few.**



Can you name any birds of prey that might be found in each of these habitats?

# What common features do they have?

## **Birds of prey have;**

- very good eyesight,
- strong curved beaks to tear flesh,
- strong curved feet (talons) to catch and kill prey.



Discuss how each feature helps them survive



# What common features do they have?

**There are many books or websites you can use to help identify birds that you see.**

The RSPB's Bird Identifier can be found at

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdidentifier/#>

and their Bird Guide can be found at

<http://therspbwebsiteatwww.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/index.aspx>



## What common features do they have?



While males are a pale grey colour, females and immature birds are brown with a white rump and a long, barred tail which give them the name 'ringtail'. They fly with wings held in a shallow 'V', gliding low in search of food, which mainly consists of meadow pipits and voles.

# What's special about hen harriers?



- **During courtship, Hen Harriers perform an incredible aerobatic display known as 'skydancing'. Make sure you see the *Skydancing video clip* included in this session.**
- **Equally aerobatic is the spectacular way in which the male passes food to the females whilst in flight. This may be so that prey is not lost in deep vegetation.**
- **They are an important part of our upland ecosystem.**
- **There are very few breeding pairs left in England and not as many as there should be elsewhere.**



# For further information

- Visit our website [www.orkneynativewildlife.org.uk](http://www.orkneynativewildlife.org.uk) for more information, our Stoat Snippet blog and to sign up for our regular news updates.
- Visit our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject): [www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject](https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject).
- To offer land access, report a stoat or volunteer visit our website.
- Contact us at [info@onwp.org](mailto:info@onwp.org) or phone 01856 881451.