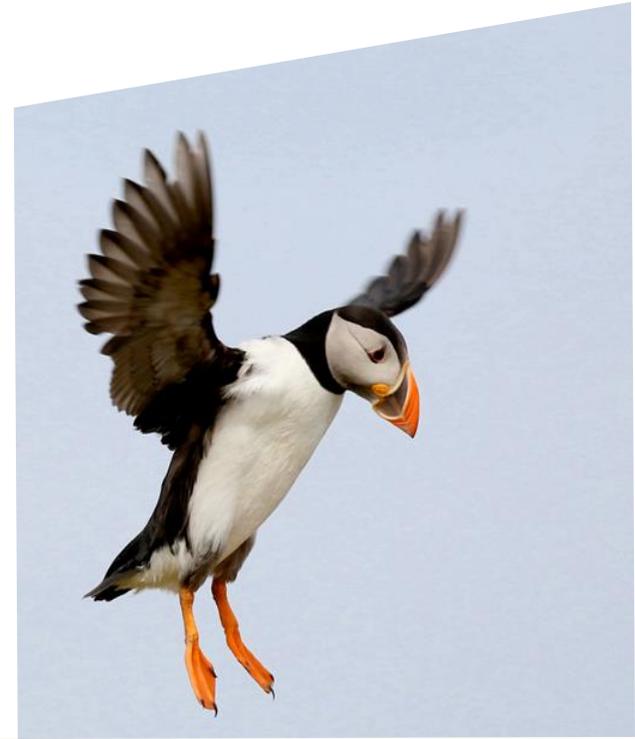




Birds of Prey



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 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.
- To offer land access, report a stoat or volunteer visit our website.
- Contact us at info@onwp.org or phone 01856 881451.