

Gleann Bhìogadail

Far a bheil na iolairean ag itealaich gu h-àrd

Iolaire-bhuidhe ag itealach thairis Ceann a Tuath na Hearadh

A golden eagle soars over North Harris



Glen Vigadale is ideal eagle habitat. The open moorland, mountains and coastline provide ideal hunting for a variety of prey including red grouse, mountain hare and seabirds. The many crags provide safe nest sites and the remoteness limits the amount of human disturbance.

You are at the centre of a 700km² area of wild land with the highest golden eagle density in Europe. Following decades of persecution, strict legal protection was introduced in the 1950s. Since then the golden eagle population has fully recovered and is now thought to be close to the carrying capacity of this landscape. There are over thirty resident breeding pairs in North Harris and adjoining parts of Lewis.

White-tailed eagles, or sea eagles, were reintroduced to Scotland in the 1970s and since then have established themselves both on the mainland and here in the Western Isles. Although they are not yet as numerous as golden eagles, it is predicted their population will steadily increase and they will continue to extend their range.



Left: A North Harris golden eagle chick at 7 weeks old.

Golden eagle chicks fledge at around 10 weeks old and remain in their parents' territory for the first few months.

Tha Iolairian-bhuidhe air a bhith anns na h-Eileanan Siar airson ùine mhòr, cho fada gu dearbha 's gum bheil iad gu math eadar dhealaichte ris an fheadhainn a gheibhear air Tìr Mòr.

Bha Iolairian-mara cuideachd ann a sheo ùine mhòr ach gu mi-fhortanach chaidh peilear a chur dhan te mu dheireadh anns na h-Eileanan Mòra aig toiseach na ficheadamh linn. Chaidh an steidheachadh as ùr ann an Alba as deidh sin ge-tà.

Mar sin, tha Iolairian air a bhith nam pàirt de ar dualchas thairis air na ginealaich agus chithear seo ann an ainmean àitichean ionadail mar Creag na h-Iolaire.

It can be difficult to spot the difference between the two native eagle species, especially from a distance or when only seen for a moment. Use the features listed below to help with identification.



Iolaire-bhuidhe
Aquila chrysaetos
Golden eagle

Agile Elegant Form.

Shaped trailing edge of the wings.

Wings held in a shallow 'V' when soaring, gliding for long periods.

Engaging in display flight with quick rises and dives.



Iolaire-mhara
Haliaeetus albicilla
White-tailed eagle

Wedge Shaped Tail.

Rectangular uniformly-shaped wings.

Wings held flat while flying with shallow wing beats.

Moving comparatively slowly and appearing clumsy at times.

Photographs courtesy of www.lauriecampbell.com



The North Harris Trust - protecting and enhancing North Harris' cultural and natural heritage.

