

# COMMONBUZZARD

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## FactFile

Length: 51cm –57cm

Wingspan: 113cm –128cm

Weight: 0.40kg –1.40kg

Habitat: Buzzards nest in trees and sometimes on rocky ledges. They favour woodland with some open ground. The number of young reared varies enormously according to the food supply – the chicks frequently cannibalise dead siblings although they only rarely kill their brothers & sisters. Families may stay together for 6 months after they young have fledged.



Lazy? Or efficient?  
Buzzards are masters  
of soaring flight.

The Common Buzzard's favourite prey is rabbit, taken either live or as carrion and their numbers were badly affected when myxomatosis devastated the rabbit population. They are opportunistic feeders, prepared to exploit any source of food. Groups of up to 10 birds may gather in one newly ploughed field to feast on earthworms and beetles.

Buzzards prefer to still -hunt from a convenient perch, gliding down to seize their prey in their talons. However, they are masters of soaring flight, using updrafts and thermals to remain airborne on broad, rounded wings for long periods without expending much energy.