

# Aquila rapax

## Tawny eagle

60-75cm tall, 1.6-3kg, 159-190cm wing span

The tawny eagle belongs to the family Accipitridae. It was once considered to be closely related to the steppe eagle, but they were split based on pronounced differences. It favours open dry habitats such as desert, semidesert, steppes, or savannah plains.



This is a large eagle, although it is one of the smaller species in the *Aquila* genus. It has tawny upperparts and blackish flight feathers and tail. The lower back is very pale. This species is smaller and paler than the steppe eagle, and it does not share that species' pale throat. Immature birds show less contrast than adults, but both show a range of variation in plumage colour.



The call of the tawny eagle is a crow-like barking, but it is rather a silent bird except in display.



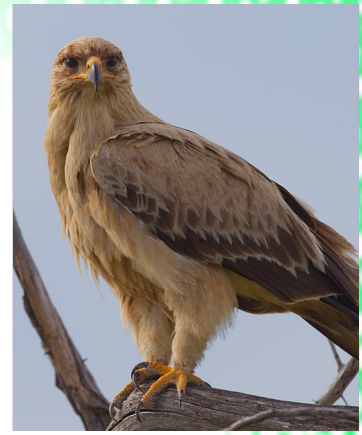
The tawny eagle's diet is largely fresh carrion of all kinds, but it kills small mammals up to the size of a rabbit, reptiles, and birds up to the size of guineafowl. It also steals food from other raptors.



It breeds in most of Africa both north and south of the Sahara Desert and across tropical southwestern Asia to India. It is a resident breeder which lays one to three eggs in a stick nest in a tree or crag or on the ground.



Widespread breeding resident throughout northern sub-Saharan Africa, northeastern Africa, and on the Indian subcontinent, formerly common in most of its range, but suffering recent precipitous declines in some areas. In southern Africa, population losses have been caused mostly by poisoning, both deliberate and inadvertent, shooting, and drowning in sheer-walled reservoirs. Some birds are also killed by vehicles when scavenging carrion on roads. It is still categorized as a species of "Least Concern" but is now largely absent in West Africa and regarded as Threatened throughout southern Africa.



### Conservation status

Extinct | Threatened | Least Concern  
EX EW CR EN VU NT LC  
Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[1]</sup>

### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Aves  
Order: Accipitriformes  
Family: Accipitridae  
Genus: *Aquila*  
Species: *A. rapax*

### Binomial name

*Aquila rapax*

