

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

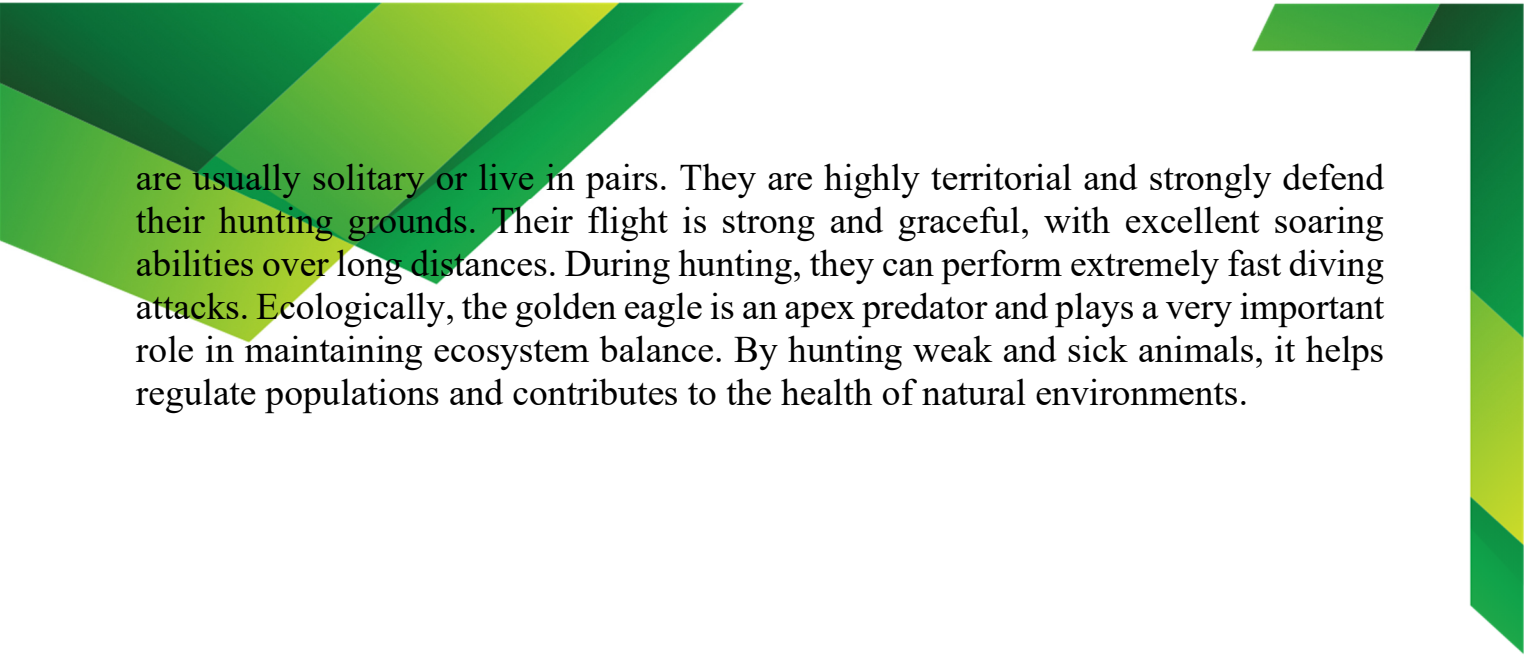
Golden eagle -*Aquila chrysaetos*

Alam: Animals
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves (Birds)
Order: Accipitriformes
Family: Accipitridae
Genus: *Aquila*
Species: Golden eagle

The golden eagle is one of the most powerful birds of prey in the world. It has a large body, broad wings, and extremely strong talons. The species gets its name from the golden-brown feathers found on the head and neck area. This majestic bird usually inhabits mountainous and open landscapes, where it captures prey with fast and powerful attacks. The golden eagle is widely distributed across North America, Europe, Asia, and North Africa. In Azerbaijan, it is mainly found in the mountainous regions of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus, especially on rocky slopes and high-altitude terrains. This eagle prefers mountains, cliffs, and open areas. It usually builds its nest on high rocky ledges or inaccessible mountain slopes. It avoids areas with strong human activity and prefers remote habitats.



The golden eagle is a carnivorous predator. Its primary prey includes small and medium-sized mammals such as rabbits, rodents, young foxes, and sometimes birds. In certain cases, it may also hunt reptiles. It captures prey using its powerful talons and attacks with high-speed dives from the air. The breeding season begins in spring. Pairs are long-term and often use the same nest for many years. The female usually lays 1–3 eggs, which are incubated for about 40–45 days. The chicks remain in the nest for several months while being fed and protected by their parents. Golden eagles



are usually solitary or live in pairs. They are highly territorial and strongly defend their hunting grounds. Their flight is strong and graceful, with excellent soaring abilities over long distances. During hunting, they can perform extremely fast diving attacks. Ecologically, the golden eagle is an apex predator and plays a very important role in maintaining ecosystem balance. By hunting weak and sick animals, it helps regulate populations and contributes to the health of natural environments.

