
Watson’s first edition of The Golden Eagle brought together diverse sources of data to produce a comprehensive treatise on the Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos). It was the first attempt to assemble existing scientific information on the widely distributed species in a single volume (see review of the first edition; Steenhof 1998).

The new edition, published by Yale University in the United States and T. & A.D. Poyser in the United Kingdom, has a different cover illustration and is in a smaller format (24 × 16 cm instead of 26 × 20 cm). As in the earlier edition, illustrations are by Keith Brockie and the author’s father Donald Watson. Brockie’s illustrations appear a bit crisper in the smaller format than in the first edition. The second edition has more color plates than the earlier edition and includes photographs that were not in the earlier edition. Tables are interspersed with the text instead of at the end of the text as in the previous edition.

The new edition has 30 pages of introductory material, including a preface, an introduction, acknowledgments, reflections by the author’s surviving wife and son, and a foreword by Ian Newton. These pages document the process of creating the second edition and constitute a virtual “who’s who” in eagle biology throughout the world. The book has the same 22 chapters with the same titles and in the same order as the first edition. Each chapter now begins with a quotation from an eagle researcher or a literary reference. The running head of the right-hand page now shows the chapter title, whereas the first edition showed the chapter subsection title. Each chapter has a section on other species of Aquila. As in the first edition, Watson emphasizes the Scottish population that he knows best.

In the preface written only 3 weeks before his death, Watson stated that much new research had been done since 1997, and questions that he posed in the first edition have been addressed in the second. Indeed, 240 of the references in Watson’s 35-page bibliography are dated 1997 or later. Some of the additional information throughout the new edition is based on unpublished data from Todd Katzner and Mike McGrady, two of Watson’s colleagues who helped complete the volume. The chapter on “Ranging Behaviour”