

## Eaglets Blog #3: Emily in the Wild

Emily makes her first flight from the aviaries, better described as a flap and a glide, landing on the hillside in thick **heather**. She sits there for a while taking in her new surroundings. The hills stretch up on either side but aren't as tall or steep as the mountains of the Highlands. A burn with small tumbling waterfalls runs in the middle of the valley, collecting all the water



*The Valley where Emily took her first flight*

that runs off the hills. There aren't many big trees in the valley but there are a few patches where some young trees have recently been planted **to improve the habitat** for many different species.

Despite being way up in the hills and far away from the nearest village and the busy towns, Emily looks up as a plane passes over the valley. Her sight is so good she notices everything around her, from the planes in the sky to the flies and small birds flitting close by. These include meadow pipits and wheatears.

It is not long before Emily meets one of her neighbours. Unaware of Emily sitting in the heather, **a ewe with two lambs'** meanders along an old sheep track towards Emily. Suddenly

they are face to face but the ewe stands its ground to protect its lambs. As a young and inexperienced eagle, Emily does not want to get into any trouble so quickly flaps her wings and lands about 10 meters away in more heather.





It takes Emily a couple of days to settle into her new home. During this time, she is **exercising her wings** and building up the strength to fly higher and for longer. She also has to get used to the winds and how they can help her to fly using less energy.

It is important Emily learns quickly as it is much safer for her to **perch up in a tree** than on the ground. Despite being a fierce predator at the **top of the food chain**, young eagles are at risk from other predators such as **foxes, badgers and even other eagles!**



*Emily at the feeding station*

All the exercise and practice takes a lot of effort and Emily needs to find food. As part of the project to help the golden eagles thrive in the south of Scotland, Eagle Officer, John has been putting food out for them at special eagle feeding stations.

Once Emily gets high enough, it doesn't take her long to spot the food. Her first meal outside of the aviary consists of some

**rabbit and a crow**. She eats quickly, filling her crop which is an expandable muscle at the top of her chest where she can store food to digest later.

Check back soon to learn about Emily's further adventures as she explores far and wide.

In the meantime, have a go at the quiz and why not come up with your own story for Emily. If you send it to us, we will feature it on our blog and send you an Emily the Eagle pin badge!



ANSWERS  
1: C, 2: B, 3: A, 4: A, 5: C, 6: A,  
7: fox/badger/eagle, 8: B

## EAGLET'S BLOG #3: Emily in the Wild QUIZ

**Question 1:** What plant does Emily land in after her first flight?

**A:** Bracken

**B:** Grass

**C:** Heather

**Question 2:** Why have more trees been planted in the valley?

**A:** To be cut down for wood

**B:** To improve the habitat

**C:** To look nice

**Question 3:** Who does Emily meet shortly after release?

**A:** A ewe with two lambs

**B:** Another golden eagle

**C:** A fox

**Question 4:** What is Emily doing during her first 2 days in the wild?

**A:** Exercising

**B:** Sleeping

**C:** Eating

**Question 5:** Where is it safer for Emily to perch?

**A:** On the ground

**B:** In the burn

**C:** Up a tree

**Question 6:** Where is Emily in the food chain?

**A:** At the top

**B:** At the bottom

**C:** In the middle

**Question 7:** Name three animals who could harm a young eagle?

**A:** .....

**B:** .....

**C:** .....

**Question 8:** What is Emily's first meal at the feeding station?

**A:** Grey squirrel

**B:** Rabbit and crow

**C:** Deer and fox

