

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (L., 1758)) (Accipitriformes, Acciptridae mobbing microlight near Pershore, Worcestershire.

Paul F. Whitehead
Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10
3EH. Email: paul@thewhiteheads.eu

On 9th July 2017 above the Avon valley just south of Pershore (SO94) I caught sight of two large birds circling on a thermal about a mile distant from me. Noticing that the one had rigid wings and that the other was emitting a harsh barking call I retrieved binoculars and scanned the scene.

The bird with rigid wings proved to a microlight turning in fairly wide circles and the other bird was a Buzzard persistently intercepting it. The call of the Buzzard was a repeated harsh yapping bark for which up to now I have found no recorded or documented parallels. When Buzzards attack people they normally do so from behind and in silence but it is well known that raptors have situation-specific vocalisations.

The Buzzard is a fascinating subject for study; 10 years ago I could never have imagined that when I opened the back door on 24th August 2017 I would find one looking at me on the lawn smothered in feathers of a Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* L..