



Early on a Sunday morning I set off on a jog from my house taking in the East Lomond and Craigmead car park area. This route takes me past a few heavily wooded areas which I know quite well. It's uphill all the way so it's not for the faint hearted, whilst following the pathway mid-way up I received an almighty clatter on the back of my head, to say that I was shocked would have been an understatement, I was in dreamland at the time. Luckily for me I realised what it had been so I kept on moving but glancing behind every few strides just in time to see the culprit swooping in for another attack!!

In all the bird came after me 3 times until I was 100m or so further up the track. This has happened to me several times over the years in various areas with different birds and I've always never minded. Knowing only too well that the Buzzard is only protecting its youngsters, and its wings don't impart any injuries.

On the way back home I had to pass the same area but this time I would be prepared or so I thought! As I ran down the edge of the wood and glancing behind all seemed quiet until whoosh a rush of air and my precious yellow woollen beanie head warmer was removed and dropped 10 metres in front of me! Unfortunately this time I was left with a stinging sensation on the top of my head and from that I knew that it wasn't just a warning from its wings but a rather aggressive gesture from a set of talons as in the picture above.



On returning home I discovered that the bird had indeed made contact and I was left with a slight graze to the top of my head which to be fair I could only give a score of 3 on a man's pain threshold!

Whilst retrieving my trusty Beanie and continuing to run the Buzzard still continued to come after me and then that's when I realised why I wasn't seeing it coming. It was coming in from behind me following the track down underneath the end branches of the fir trees at a metre of the ground then swooping upwards more like a Goshawk I would say, agile for a bird of that size.

The worrying thing for me and I am sure you all know is that the Buzzard normally takes out all the old, young, injured, and less mobile animals, Jeez ooh!!

Anyway that's enough about Buzzards, as I complete this article the weather is slightly improving and the temperature rising, time to get the binoculars out and see what's happening out there. Locally the Greylag geese have been doing very well with broods in double figures. Enjoy scouting about there's a lot to see.

JM