



Beau one of our largest birds of prey is glorious in colour and spectacular in flight. The bird exhibits magnificent behavioural displays and is truly quite unique.

Beau was found standing on a single post in the Ravensbourne area. It stood there, silently perhaps waiting, for an owner ? a partner? or food? The farmer who owned the property was intrigued and felt the animal might be injured and after three days surely must be hungry so he threw him a kilo of minced meat. The bird hopped from the post consumed the food and then hopped straight back to the position on the post.

Concerned for the welfare of the bird he phoned me for assistance that night. I asked him to phone me in the morning if the bird was still there and although I had a prior commitment I would ask a ranger I knew who had experience with these birds to observe and collect the bird he felt the bird needed to come into care.

The next morning sure enough the bird was still standing on the post so the farmer feed it another kilo of mince and the bird behaved in the same manner accepting the offering and simply returning to its vigil.

The bird was easily caught by the ranger showing no alarm a when handled, I came home from tutoring to find a message that the bird was in a small aviary as requested the ranger had noted only that the bird was very thin.

On first inspection I could see no injury but the eagle was indeed emancipated. By the light colouring the eagle appeared to be either young or a pale morph. Other characteristics like the condition of the beak the feet indicated the bird was of some years, and today the feathers are much the same colour after two moults in captivity, unusual as most eagles tend to become darker with age.

