

# NATURE

media information



PBS

**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2009

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***A WILDLIFE CAMERAMAN GOES HOME TO REDISCOVER THE HAUNTINGLY  
BEAUTIFUL ISLAND OF HIS YOUTH AS NATURE PRESENTS  
EAGLES OF MULL***

Wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan left his home on the Scottish island of Mull when he was seventeen to travel the world and film wild animals in exotic settings. For fifteen years he did just that, making a well-respected name for himself as a cameraman and presenter of natural history films set in a number of far-flung locations. But returning to his birthplace for a full year to turn his camera on the very place where he learned to love the wild was an assignment he relished. The wide variety of wildlife and stunning landscapes make Mull the perfect place to film, and the island held a few surprises even for its native son. *Nature's Eagles of Mull* premieres nationally Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

Nature is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

Located off the coast of western Scotland, the island of Mull is one of those rare and fortunate places that seem untouched by the passage of time. An intoxicating blend of mountains, forests, coastline, moorland and crystal clear rivers provide a picture-perfect backdrop for its rich diversity of wildlife. Buchanan arrived especially eager to film white-tailed sea eagles, only reestablished on Mull during his 15-year absence; the otters that he had seen as a child all along

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the coasts; and the whales, dolphins and basking sharks offshore that he had never seen before.

White-tailed sea eagles hold a special place on Mull. Though originally re-introduced as a species on a neighboring island, the enormous birds with 8-foot-wingspans adopted Mull as their home instead and the locals have responded with programs to monitor them and to help ensure their continued health and safety. Every Easter, the police, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the community launch the Mull Eagle Watch, to protect vulnerable sea eagle eggs for the 38 days they are incubated in the nest. As licenses to film the birds are quite restrictive, the assistance of the RSPB is key in obtaining permissions and selecting a good nest to film. Sitting through the rainy Scottish weather and enduring the long waits between eagle sightings gives Buchanan plenty of time to appreciate Scotland's light and landscapes in a new way. But before long, he is happily filming two sea eagle chicks being raised by their hard-working parents.

While Mull is known for its sea eagles, it is also one of the best places in all of Europe to see golden eagles, which are smaller than the sea eagles, but still, very large birds. Buchanan sets his camera on one of their nests to watch a pair raise their chick.

When he is not watching eagles, he heads out to sea, where he is thrilled to find bottle-nosed dolphins fishing by the shore, basking sharks swimming directly beneath his kayak, and minke whales swimming all around his friend's much larger fishing vessel.

Proving to be much more difficult for Buchanan and his camera to find are the otters he remembers seeing all along the coast when he was a child. But just when he begins to think they will completely elude him, he encounters a mother otter and her cubs, improbably right in the middle of a unique gathering that includes a mink and a grey seal. It's definitely a sight worth waiting for.

*Nature* has won more than 450 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three

Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees*.

*Nature's Eagles of Mull* is a Mike Birkhead Associates Production for the BBC. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer for *Nature*; William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for *Nature* is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. and SC Johnson. Additional support is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the nation's public television stations.

*Nature* video podcasts, available on iTunes and at *Nature Online* ([www.pbs.org/nature](http://www.pbs.org/nature)), range from two to 10 minutes in length and feature behind-the-scenes interviews with filmmakers and producers, program excerpts, and outtakes.

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