

A rough-legged Buzzard

Archibald Thorburn



REF: 2964

Description

Archibald Thorburn (1860-1855)
A rough-legged Buzzard

Signed lower left: Archibald Thorburn
Pencil and watercolour heightened with bodycolour on blue-green paper
27.6 by 21.3 cm., 10 ³/₄ by 8 ¹/₂ in.

Provenance:
With Spink and Son, London;
Private Collection until 2024

Thorburn was born in Scotland, the son of Robert Thorburn (1818-1885), portrait miniaturist to Queen Victoria. He moved to London to study art and in 1887 was commissioned by the artist Joseph Wolf to illustrate Lord Lilford's *Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Isles*, for which he painted 268 watercolours. He soon became the most sought after wildlife artist of the period exhibiting extensively at the Royal Academy and producing illustrations for many books.