

Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats

Four Eggs for Peregrines Falcons on St John's Church Bath



Picture Caption: The falcon (female bird) returns to the nest to take over incubation duty from the tiercel (male bird)

Picture Credit: hawkandowl.org

[Higher Resolution Images available if required – this picture is 1.2MB]

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Registered Charity No 1068565

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

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The resident wild peregrine falcons at the St John's Roman Catholic Church nesting platform, installed and maintained by wild bird of prey conservation charity the Hawk and Owl Trust, have produced a clutch of four eggs in 2014. The first appeared at about 14:00 on Sunday 30 March 2014 with the fourth arriving around 16:00 on Sunday 6 April. Both birds are taking it in turns to incubate the eggs and after a period of 33 to 35 days they should begin to hatch.

Hamish Smith - Hawk and Owl Trust's Bath Urban Peregrine Project Coordinator says:

'Our female peregrine is usually a four-egg bird – so I'm confident to go out on a limb and say that this will be the clutch size for 2014, although five eggs is not unheard of. She is renowned for keeping us on our toes'

Peregrines were first observed regularly in Bath about 14 years ago. After three years of peregrine residence without any indication of successful breeding, the Hawk and Owl Trust designed, built and installed the nest platform on the spire at one of the peregrines' favourite roost sites. The birds first bred in 2006, and have successfully hatched and reared young every spring since.

Before the 2014 breeding season started, the Hawk and Owl Trust's Bath and West Wiltshire Group modified the nest box and installed a camera system. An extension to the front was added with an integrated perch, primarily to provide more room for the young birds to exercise before they fly the nest. The adult birds have really taken to the new perch, their 'patio' as the locals have named it.

This is a YouTube clip of the moment all four eggs are revealed from the newly installed camera system: <http://youtu.be/sFtvYkKAZtE>

The camera system was designed and supplied by i-Code Systems, a Hampshire based IT/CCTV company with extensive experience in the installation and operation of covert wildlife camera systems. I-Code already supports the Hawk and Owl



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Trust's live video from the pair of peregrine falcons nesting on Norwich Cathedral. It is planned that live streaming from Bath will be in place by mid to end April and be available via the Hawk and Owl Trust website at www.upp.hawkandowl.org/

There is a Watch Point staffed by Hawk and Owl Trust volunteers on the Riverside Path near St John's Church every Sunday from 11am – 1pm if you would like to come along and find out about these wild creatures living amongst us in the heart of the Bath.

Ends.

For more images, information or interviews please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Hawk and Owl Trust

Founded in 1969 to help save the rapidly declining peregrine, the Hawk and Owl Trust is a national charity which now works for the conservation and appreciation of all wild birds of prey and their habitats – both in its nature reserves (such as Shapwick Moor on the Somerset Levels) and in partnership with others. Working with communities and other organisations, farmers, foresters and landowners, the Trust researches, restores and manages nesting, roosting and feeding habitats and encourages greater understanding and appreciation of these very special birds. www.hawkandowl.org.

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