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Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats

Press release

Norwich Peregrines hatch first chick at Hawk and Owl Trust Urban Peregrine Watch Point

The first egg hatched on Saturday night (26th April). It was first seen at 19:37 still wet and in its half-shell so the actual separation of the shell would not have been much before that. The female was incubating at the time but the male came in and almost pushed her off the nest, continuing to take his paternal duties very seriously. He settled on the eggs/chick right away and the female flew off. She returned at 20:17 and took over incubation/brooding for the night shift.

Incubation from the laying of the 3rd egg (when incubation proper starts) was 34.19 days (39 days since the egg was laid). Last year the second egg hatched about 6 hours later.



President | Chris Packham
Registered Charity No 1068565
A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

Chairman | Mr Philip Merricks
Head Office: PO Box 400, Bishop's Lydeard
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First feed was at 0617 Sunday morning with the female bird bringing in a ready plucked meal that the adults had placed in one of their food storage area ready for this moment. The male left the nest and the female fed the single chick for about four minutes before settling on the nest again.

The chick seems fit and well as far as we can see.



We are expecting another hatching Sunday afternoon/eve. Here are some key dates from 2013.

Eggs laying dates : March 21st, 24th, 26th, 29th
Hatching dates; 30th April, 1st May, 1st May, 2nd May
Average incubation: 33.5 days from 3th egg lay
Fledging dates: 6th June, 7th June, 7th June, 9th June

The Watch Point at Norwich Cathedral is open seven days a week.

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Links to video clips of the hatching and first feed:

Hatching (19:37 on 26th) <http://youtu.be/-LFSTCI4TUQ>
1st Feed (0617 on 27th): <http://youtu.be/yf7x8WFVEsM>

Notes to Editors

All picture credits: Hawk and Owl Trust

High Resolution images and TV quality footage available on request
Interviews available by telephone or at the Norwich Cathedral Watchpoint

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Hawk and Owl Trust

Founded in 1969 to help save the peregrine, in serious decline due to the effects of pesticides and persecution, 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 on its nature reserves (such as Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve in Norfolk, Shapwick Moor on the Somerset Levels and Fylingdales Moor on the North York Moors) 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

Sponsors

The Cathedral Peregrines project has been generously supported by hosts Norwich Cathedral; Viking Optics, I-Catcher Systems, M & A Partners, Syngenta Ltd, WildSounds and WiSpire by FreeClix and Swallowtail Printers.

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Partnership with Norwich Castle

This year we have partnered with **Norwich Castle Museum** and will be showing video clips and live images straight from the Cathedral nest cameras on a large screen in the Castle's entrance hall. This will feature as part of their 'Wonder of Birds' exhibition, which starts in May and runs through to the end of September. See www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk for more information. The Cathedral is only a short stroll from the Castle so visitors can easily visit both sites. Our thanks to all at the Cathedral and the Castle, and particularly FreeClix/WiSpire who have helped get the wireless link set up between these two historic buildings enabling us to stream the images. The Castle screen is now live.

You can also 'Like' our FaceBook page if you want to be kept up to date with what's going on with the Cathedral peregrine family and see the latest video clips. We also regularly 'Tweet' the action using [@hawkandowluk](https://twitter.com/hawkandowluk) and [#nrperegrines](https://twitter.com/nrperegrines).

Better still, why not pop down to the Cathedral Watch Point where our team can give you the latest information and you can see the birds live. Our Peregrine Watch Point Officers, Carrie, Nick and Jan are back with us for another season – and would be delighted to see you. More than that, the sight and sounds of peregrines screaming overhead is a wonderful experience. Bring the kids as it's a great opportunity to get them close to nature - and to see the fastest bird on earth!

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