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## Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats

### Press release

### Norwich Cathedral Peregrine Chicks receive their identification rings

In an important joint project with the British Trust For Ornithology and the Hawk and Owl Trust an intrepid group climbed the Cathedral Spire last week to fit the peregrine falcon chicks with a unique identification leg ring. The ring will allow researchers to be able to monitor the movements of the chicks as they disperse from the nest into the big wide world.

#### Phil Littler from BTO's North West Norfolk Ringing Group says:

'It's a great privilege to be able to monitor these magnificent birds. Three out of four of the peregrine chicks were ringed on Norwich Cathedral on 15 May by myself and my colleague Simon Evans. We think the birds are two females and a male, based on weight; the two heaviest being 731g and 706g, with the male weighing in at 517g. All three were given an individual BTO metal ring on the right leg, and a coloured identifying ring on the left leg. The fourth bird was too close to the edge of the box and in too precarious position to try to catch it, and so was left unringed - it's visual size would suggest that it was another male.'

#### Hawk and Owl Trust spokesperson Lin Murray added:

'It's important that urban peregrines are monitored, as this will allow us to establish the success of our fledglings and to follow where they go. You may remember the report of an intruder female bird recently that approached the nest before the eggs were hatched, we were able to trace this bird back to an Urban Peregrine Project in London and we knew that she was just over three years old.'

Some key dates from 2013.

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

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#### President | Chris Packham

Registered Charity No 1068565

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

#### Chairman | Mr Philip Merricks

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We think that the chicks will begin to fledge the second week in June onwards. The Watch Point at Norwich Cathedral is open seven days a week and once the young birds starts to fly it is a really exciting time to go to see them. It is possible that all six birds could be seen in the sky at the same time as the parent birds teach their offspring flying skills and how to catch prey.

### **Notes to Editors**

**High resolution images attached. More available on request.**

**All picture credits: Hawk and Owl Trust/Andy Thompson**

**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](http://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](http://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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