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Tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons

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In 2022, Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus* bred in an old Raven *Corvus corax* nest on a gantry associated with electricity pylons in Rutland. They fledged two young, which remained in the general area until November. After the young had fledged, the nest was removed by authorities. On 4th April 2023, a pair of Peregrines was observed at a Carrion Crow *C. corone* nest in the canopy of a large Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* tree, some 600 m from the 2022 gantry nest site. Breeding at this crow nest was successful, with three fledged young present on the nest on 20th June and both adults nearby.

Tree nesting by Peregrines is unusual in Britain (Ratcliffe 1980) but more common in parts of Europe, such as the Baltic region. A pair raised three young at a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* nest in Scotland in 1999 (Leckie &

Campbell 2000). In Shropshire. a pair bred successfully in a tree between 2002 and 2011, fledging nine young, while a second pair fledged two young from a nest in a tree at a second site in 2012. There have, however, been no further records of tree-nesting Peregrines from Shropshire since (Jonathan Groom pers. comm.).

References

Leckie, F., & Campbell, S. 2000 A new record of successful tree-nesting Peregrines. *Scott. Birds* 21: 45–46.

Ratcliffe, D. 1980. *The Peregrine Falcon*. Derek Ratcliffe. Poyser, London.

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