



The picture above was taken by the main web camera and shows the two 2007 chicks at an early stage of growth being fed by the female falcon. The other two eggs didn't hatch. Notice the gravel we put on the platform. These birds build no nest but lay their eggs directly onto whatever substrate is there.

What do they eat?

Peregrines feed almost entirely on birds, catching them in flight. During the nesting period the male does most of the hunting, feeding the female while she sits on the eggs and later, the chicks as well.

Prey is brought back to the tower to pluck and eat. The wings, legs and sometimes the heads are left.

So far, over 40 species have been found including teal, woodcock, snipe, golden plover and thrushes, as well as such rarities as quail, bar-tailed godwit, knot and waxwing!

In summer 2007, the remains of a Swedish-ringed arctic tern were found.

If you need this information in large type please contact the Trust on 01773 881188.

The Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project is a partnership between:

Derby Museum and Art Gallery

The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS

www.derby.gov.uk/museums
museums@derby.gov.uk

01332 716659



Derby Cathedral

18/19 Iron Gate
Derby DE1 1GP
www.derbycathedral.org.uk
01332 341201



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

East Mill, Bridge Foot, Belper,
Derbyshire DE56 1XH
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

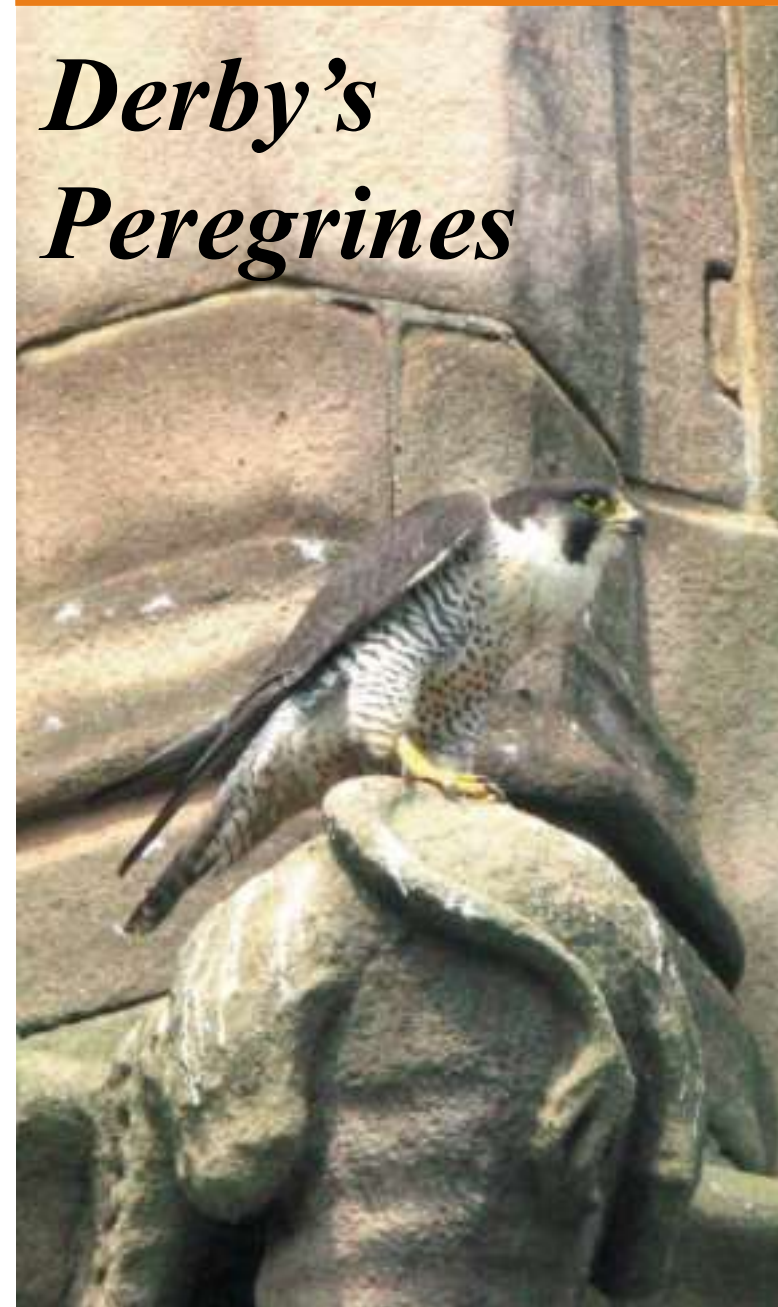
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Photography by David King, John Salloway,
Kev Joynes & Tony Grantham.



Derby's Peregrines



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

Poisoned by pesticides and persecuted by game keepers, peregrines disappeared from most of the UK in the 1950s & 60s. Since then, peregrines have recolonised both their traditional upland and coastal sites.

More recently, even the English lowlands have been adopted. Here, in the absence of any cliffs apart from quarries, peregrines now nest on man-made structures such as tower blocks, power stations and churches, moving right into the heart of many cities.

These now include Derby, where you can see them both online and in the flesh!



Derby's Peregrines: the story so far...

A pair of these spectacular wild falcons arrived on Derby Cathedral's mediaeval tower sometime in 2004. By spring 2005 they were displaying, but with no suitable nest ledge, they soon gave up and left. In autumn 2005 the pair returned and early in 2006 they displayed again.

Peregrines don't build nests, but lay their eggs straight onto a ledge—but there are no suitable ledges on the tower! So, in April 2006, a purpose-built nest platform was installed on the tower's east side, high above the nave.

The birds adopted it quickly and laid three eggs which hatched a month later. We eventually saw the three chicks, their fluffy white heads poking above the edge of the platform!

The three youngsters grew quickly (see photo below) and took their maiden flights in early July 2006, a fantastic first for Derby!

In 2007, Derby Museum installed two web cameras by the nest. These have allowed people across the world to see our birds on the nest and we achieved over 240,000 hits that year! A blog, or online diary, accompanies the web cam pictures and tells the story of what was happening.

Two young were raised last year and these were colour ringed so we could identify them should they be seen elsewhere.

In 2008, a third camera was added by the museum, giving great views of the birds feeding and mating on the gargoyles above.

For live pictures and the latest news, visit the peregrine diary and web cams by going to

www.derby.gov.uk/peregrines

How to see the birds for real

For views of the peregrines, assuming you live near Derby, look up at the cathedral tower's east side either from Cathedral Green or somewhere on Full Street.

The birds can usually be seen on the edge of the platform or on one of the gargoyles above...though not always, eg if the female is incubating and the male out hunting...

