

HOBBY

falco subbuteo

The Hobby is a migratory bird, visiting this country to breed in April and returning to Africa each winter. Southern Britain is at the most northerly end of its range – several pairs nesting in East Anglia every year.

The Hobby is an extremely fast and agile little falcon which preys on large insects and small birds such as house martins and swifts. It is particularly active at dusk and has even been known to hunt large insects and bats by moonlight.

About the same size as a Kestrel but with longer, more pointed wings and a shorter tail, the Hobby can be distinguished by its dark plumage, russet thighs and pronounced moustachial stripe.



FactFile

Length: 30cm – 36cm

Wingspan: 82cm – 92cm

Weight: 0.13kg – 0.34kg

Habitat: Heath and downland provided there are some tall trees for nesting. Abandoned crow, magpie & sparrowhawk nests and squirrel dreys are used. The normal clutch size is 3 eggs which take about 30 days to hatch. The male provides food for his mate and the young until the chicks are about 18 days old at which time the female joins the hunt. Fledging can take up to 34 days after which the youngsters practice their hunting skills by taking food from the male in flight.



Small, fast & agile -
a pocket Peregrine.