

Red Kites on the Cleddau

There have been numerous reports recently of one, sometimes two, Red Kites in the area around Sandy Hill Chapel and Rickerston. I assume they are associating with the Buzzards and Ravens which are attracted to the Turkey Farm, and which can sometimes be seen in large numbers there.

I wonder if they will breed here?? Last year there was a breeding pair somewhere south-west of Haverfordwest, probably in the Walwyns Castle area, but so far that is the furthest west that they have bred. It would be wonderful to have such characterful birds in the area but I wonder if the local Buzzards (there is at least one breeding pair in Sandy Haven), Ravens, Magpies and Crows would give them any peace? They are quite sensitive to disturbance during the nest-building period in March and April.



Red Kites are recent arrivals in Pembrokeshire as breeding birds, probably arriving from populations in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion. The first proven breeding attempt was as recently as 2002. By 2007 there were 12 territories in the North and East of the county and there has been further expansion since then. In 2008 two adult birds which were born in Pembrokeshire started to breed, thus beginning a new Pembrokeshire dynasty!

Incidentally if you were wondering what Red Kites would find to eat here, then Rabbits and the fledglings of Crows and Magpies are on their menu, and this seems a very good reason to encourage them!