

Learning in the Leaves

Identification- Falco tinnunculus - Kestrel



Photo: Kestrel hovering (by Tony Margiocchi)

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Distinguishing Features

- Approx 35cm.
- Wingspan around 75cm.
- Kestrel plumage is light brown at the front with dark speckles, and dark brown at the back with black speckles.
- The head of the male is a blue-grey colour.

Interesting Facts

- Kestrels are our most common falcon. It would be difficult to take a journey on a UK motorway without spotting one hovering above the verges searching for prey.
- Kestrels are equipped with excellent eyesight which allow them to spot a potential meal, from a great height while hovering.
- Although they eat every part of their prey, soon afterwards they regurgitate all the fur, and hard bony parts in the form of a pellet. You can sometimes find piles of these pellets beneath their nests or perching posts.
- [information collated from the UK Safari Website: www.uksafari.com]