



Kestrel

MALE

Falco tinnuculus

July 2013

“Dink”

DECLINING

Young and inquisitive, up-side down head.

DESCRIPTION & IDENTIFICATION

Often seen hovering at the road-side, the only small bird of prey which does so. A member of the falcon family, distinguished by the long tapered wings, however, no other falcon has such a long tail. The kestrel will hover for anything up to two hours, eyes fixed on the ground watching for the signs of prey. The male is easily distinguished from the female due to the blue-grey head colour.

HABITAT & LOCATION

The most common British falcon, often seen hunting along grass verges and hedgerows. Change in farming practice has resulted in declining numbers. Found in woodlands, parks, fields, and moors.

NATURAL DIET

Field vole and occasionally other small mammals.

WEIGHTS & DIMENSIONS

Weight : 5 oz, (140 g), - 11 oz, (310 g).

Height : 12.5”, (32 cm) – 19.5”, (50 cm).