

Shropshire Rookeries

Nesting Bird Survey 2024

Rooks are social birds, they nest in noisy, conspicuous colonies – 'Rookeries.' Their numbers are in decline in Shropshire. In 2008 there were around 490 rookeries and the number of nests has fallen by around a fifth (21%) since 1975.

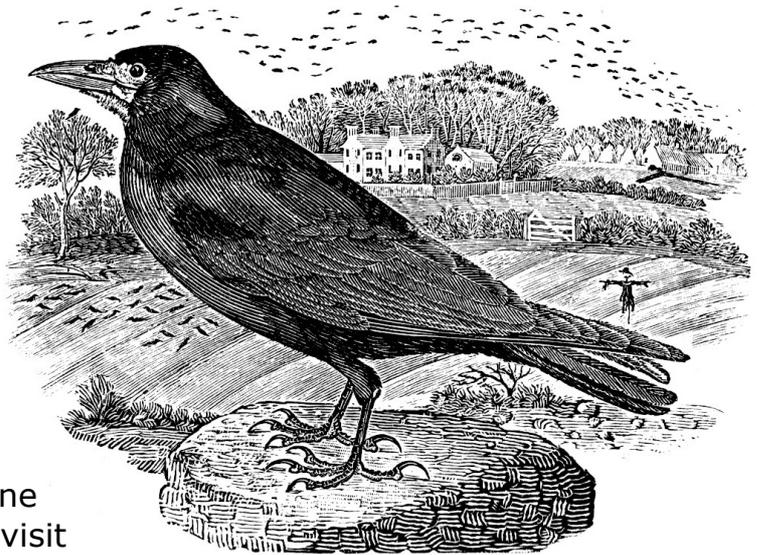
In 2020 we recorded 383 rookeries and we need to know how many survive in 2024?

So how are they doing now?

Citizen Science to the rescue ... anyone can help survey them – you need to visit or revisit the colonies and count the nests this year – easy!

Your help is valuable this year

Rookeries should be at their maximum size around the weekend of 27/28 April and before the leaf-cover obscures them. You need to count the nests several times from different angles to get a correct number.



The Rook

A large glossy-black farmland bird with a dagger-like bill and white chin (in the adult). They nest, often close to houses, in noisy tree-top colonies of from two to over 100 nests.

To illustrate the Rook I can do no better than use this wood engraving by Thomas Bewick (1753–1828).

How the survey works

Technology has the answer. Use your **Laptop** or **Smart Phone** to record your sightings over the weekend of 27/28 April and submit them online.

- Go to for full details <https://www.lanius.org.uk/rookeries24/>
You can also **google.co.uk** for the two words **Shropshire Rookeries24**
- On the map navigate to the area of the rookery you know and it should be there. You maybe really lucky and have found a new one!
- For each rookery site, on the Report Form: Select the map location then choose the drop-down report type and fill-in the rest of the data.

There will be a full report of the **Rookeries Survey 2024** published later his year.

This is a *Citizen Science* project in association with the *Shropshire Ornithological Society* (SOS).

Contacts:

Project manager: John Tucker, Aston on Clun, Shropshire rookeries@lanius.org.uk

Shropshire Ornithological Society: Claire Mulvey: clairemulvey@hotmail.co.uk