

Ringling and Wing Tagging - 2025

Friends of Red Kites ring and wing tag red kite chicks from several nests every breeding season. Young kites are fitted with wing tags that have a unique alpha-numeric mark so that it can be identified in the field after fledging. A pink tag is fitted to the left wing and this denotes that the bird fledged in the north east of England. The colour of the right-wing tag denotes the year that the young red kite fledged in, which, for 2025, is purple. This year the alpha-numeric wing tag combination runs from A0 through to B2. When identified after fledging this gives us information on where the birds disperse to, where they roost and where they settle down to breed.

Photograph: Ken Sanderson



Two red kite chicks, approx. 5 weeks old, playing dead, waiting to go back into the nest

Ringling and wing tagging of red kite chicks took place over two days, Friday 6th June and Monday 16th June. In all, 8 nests were visited, A total of 15 youngsters were ringed of which 12 were wing big enough to fit wing tags to. Eight of the wing-tagged kites were from nests in Northumberland making it the highest number ever of chicks wing-tagged in that county.

2025 has been our best season for ringling and wing tagging for several years.