

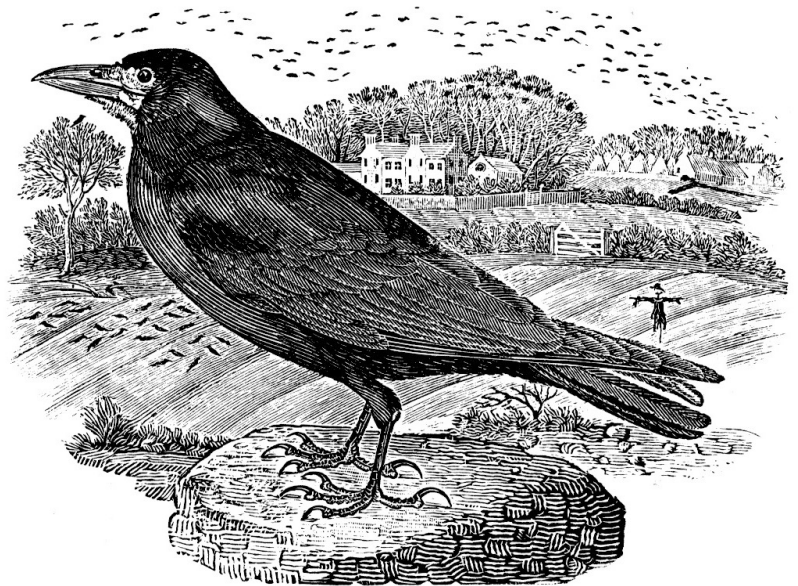
Shropshire Rookeries in 2021

Probably the easiest Bird Survey ... ever

How are they doing?

Shropshire's over 600 Rookeries were surveyed in 1975, almost half a century ago, and again in 2008. Their population may now be in serious decline.

You can help this year by checking some of the 428 rookeries which need a report.



There will be a few rookeries not far from you – you could even discover a new one. I'm especially interested to hear from anyone living towards the edges of Shropshire – the south-east, south-west and the extreme north.

How to help

Please send me an email or letter ... tell me which area of Shropshire you can help with and I'll send you a map of where the rookeries are, or were. Then you tell me what you've found. It's as easy as that.

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

- Please tell me where you can help (*place-name, postcode or grid reference or what3words*).
- I send you a map of exactly where the known rookeries are.
- You visit the site/s, check that they exist (*they may have moved to somewhere close by*).
- In April or May you count the nests and tell me.

Feedback

I will write up the whole rookery story and if you request it, I'll send you a copy later this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Thank you John Tucker

• rookeries2021@lanius.org.uk • Oakerley, Aston on Clun SY7 8EW