

Leeds-Manchester

The North TransPennine route links two of the major cities in England's northern industrial heartland. Trains run between Leeds and Manchester offering spectacular views of the Pennines. TransPennine Express and Northern Rail operate services on this route.

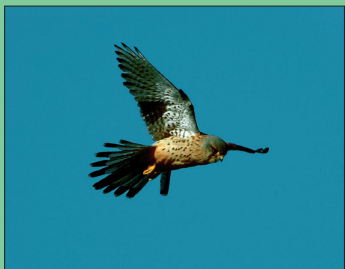
Leaving Leeds through the largely urban landscape, look out for **kestrels** hovering as they hunt for prey and **foxes*** making the most of their city haunts, particularly at dusk and dawn. During the daytime, you are almost certain to see **grey squirrels** feeding and 'playing' in gardens and green spaces alongside the railway track. After Huddersfield, the route skirts the top of the Peak District National Park, where **mountain hares** have their southernmost stronghold in Britain and have been spotted just north of the A62 in recent years. On this section of the track, too, you should see **rooks** feeding in the fields or flying to and from their rookery or roost. The Peak District National Park is a fantastic habitat for wildlife. Before you enter the Standedge tunnel, you'll see heather moorland. This important area is managed for **red grouse** but is also home to upland breeding bird species such as **curlews***, **lapwings*** and **golden plovers**, as well as the familiar wild ***rabbit**.

*Fox – picture on page 5

*Curlew – picture on page 13

*Lapwing – picture on page 11

*Rabbit – picture on page 13



© Philip Newman/NPL

Kestrel - the old name for this species is 'Windhover' for obvious reasons!



© Nida Al-Fulaij/MTUK

Grey squirrel - brilliant acrobats, but not one of our true native species.



© Colin Carver/NPL

Mountain hare - white fur and hairy toes keep these hares warm in winter.



© Paul Sterry/NPL

Rook - easily told from the similar sized Carrion Crow by its pale beak.

