



Aston Campus Wildlife Group

April 2011

We have Eggs!

Newsletter

I'm sure everyone will have been watching on Kestrel Cam and have seen that we have 6 eggs again this year. Both mum and dad have been taking turns on the nest, so fingers crossed that we have 5 (or maybe even 6) hatchlings this year.

As a useful comparison, here are the dates for last year's laying/hatching and predicted dates for this year:

Laying	2010	2011
Egg 1	6 April (white egg)	5 April (partially white)
Egg 2	12 April	10 April
Egg 3	14 April	12 April
Egg 4	16 April	15 April
Egg 5	18 April	17 April
Egg 6	21 April	19 April

Hatching	2010	2011 (*predicted)
Egg 1	12 May (white egg)	*11 May
Egg 2	13 May	*12 May
Egg 3	15 May	*13 May
Egg 4	16 May	*15 May
Egg 5	18 May	*17 May
Egg 6	-	* 18 May

Cadburys Vs Birds

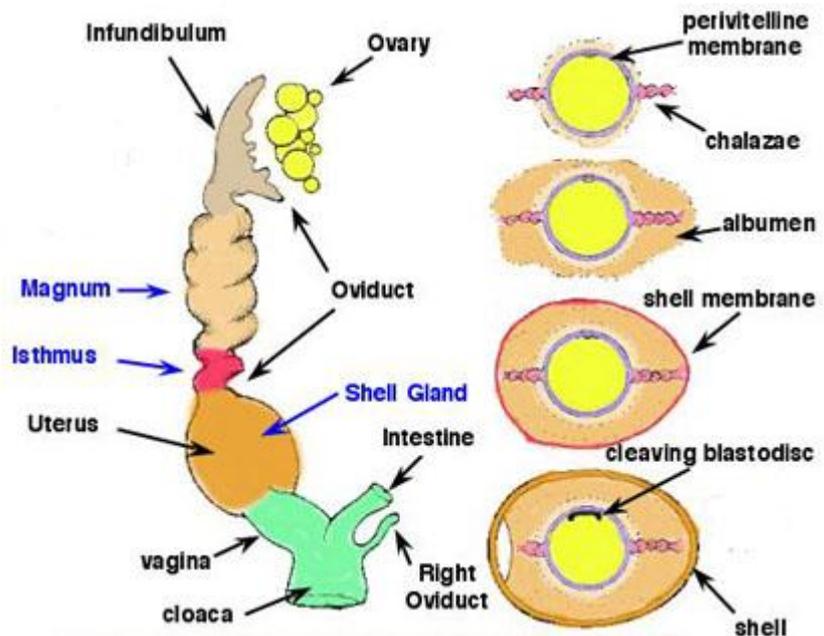
Cadburys Creme Eggs

Excerpt from the official Cadburys website:
The manufacturing process is quite unique; first, the molten chocolate is poured into the moulds, which is then filled with white fondant. The relative density of the two ingredients causes the chocolate to push outwards to fully coat the mould. Finally, the yellow goo is carefully inserted in the middle before the two halves of the mould are snapped together to create a perfect egg, cooled and wrapped.

Pretty impressive? What about natural avian eggs?

Avian Eggs

1. Female ovary enlarges during the breeding season. Mating occurs and an egg is fertilised (embryo).
2. The embryo travels through the oviduct (takes about 24 hours). At this stage the embryo is surrounded by concentric layers of yolk, food reserves for it's development.
3. Once in the magnum region of the oviduct the embryo receives a coating of egg white (albumen) which takes 3 hours.



How eggs are formed

Source: www.wisc.edu/ansci_repro/lec/lec1/female_hist.html

4. The embryo moves into isthmus where shell membranes are deposited (one hour)
5. On to the uterus, where the tough outer coating of the shell is applied, along with any colouration.
6. Out pops the egg.

I'd like to see Cadburys make their creme eggs from the inside out.



Urban Wildlife Talk

“Urban Wildlife, the Interaction of Birds, People and the Adaption of Wildlife in an Urban Setting”

Presented by Martin Feast, West Midlands Assistant People Engagement Manager from the RSPB Birmingham Office.

Date: 18th May
Time: 1pm – 2pm
Location: MB549

This promises to be a very interesting talk, and we are very lucky to have an expert speaker agree to provide this for us.

If you intend to come, please email [Carolyn Taylor](mailto:Carolyn.Taylor@aston.ac.uk) to confirm. Non-members are also very welcome – bring a friend!

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12 May at 1pm. Please join us for a coffee or bite to eat in Dolce Vita.

Website

Have you visited our [updated website](#)? We now have a picture gallery with photos submitted by group members. If you have photos that you would like other members to see, why not send them to [Denise](#) who will add them to the website.

Help us with Kestrel sightings!

Please keep checking [KestrelCam](#) and send any interesting pictures to Denise. We are trying to keep a record of as much activity during the breeding season as possible.

To save a picture, right click over the picture, choose ‘Save Picture As’, save it somewhere safe and then send via email).

Twitter

This will be the second year that our kestrels will be followed by people across the country on [Twitter](#).

Wildflower Area

You may remember that in [April 2010](#), members of the group (with the kind help of the campus gardeners) planted wildflowers in patches along the edge of the volleyball/basketball court near the Student’s Guild. These areas will take a couple of years to become established, but already we are seeing some of the plants flowering.



The group has also had a donation from Vaughan Townsend (Estates) in the form of signs for our wildflower area which will shortly be installed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Vaughan for his generosity and support of the group.

Box Crazy

The campus will soon be placing a few new wildlife boxes around campus to help our wildlife. Bird boxes, bat boxes and insect boxes have been made by Mark Bartlett (Carpenter). The bat boxes will be a particular welcome to roosting pipistrelle bats which have long been seen around campus. Thank you to Mark for his hard work and commitment to the group!

Wildlife Wednesday (March 2011)

Our display in the lower foyer during the second annual Go Green Week was well received, with lots of interest in the group. Thank you to those who helped man the stand and answer questions, and welcome to our new members!