

**Red kites swarm above a snow-covered field waiting for a meaty morsel.**



They are looking out for a woman who has been feeding birds in the area since 1994. She gives them offcuts of meat provided free of charge by an abattoir.

During the winter, more than 80 birds gather near Lampeter, west Wales, for the mid-afternoon feeding frenzy. Red kites are distinctive because of their forked tail and

striking colour, mainly chestnut red with white patches under the wings and a pale grey head. They have a wingspan of more than 1,5m, but a relatively small body weight of a little more than 1kg. This means they are very agile. Despite their size red kites are neither particularly strong nor aggressive.