

Warm climate has scrambled my egg-layers

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A POULTRY enthusiast believes climate change has caused his birds to lay their eggs early.

Peter Corfield, who has kept birds for 25 years, says mother nature has tricked his geese, peacocks and ducks.

He is amazed that his ducks, which do not usually lay eggs until after March, have already given him eight ducklings.

His geese, which are not expected to lay until February, started laying at the start of last month.

And he has two breeding pairs of peacocks, who usually lay twice a year in March and August, and they have already given him five baby peacocks and five eggs, which he is hoping will hatch for Christmas.

Peter, 68, from Worsley, believes they have been tricked into laying early because of the unseasonably warm weather we have experienced recently.

He said: "I believe the reason they have laid their



● Peter Corfield with one of his goose eggs, which has been laid early
Eddie Garvey

eggs early is due to climate change. Our summers are up and down and we are in December but it has been mild. "It is warmer than it

should be for this time of year and they will think it is time to lay their eggs.

"Our seasons are mixed up and it is confusing nature. They will think it is spring now instead of winter.

"We keep hearing about climate change and I think it is disturbing them.

"I have kept poultry as a hobby for 25 years and the only time this has happened before is two years ago with the geese, who laid non-stop through the winter.

"It is usually the other way around - they lay from February onwards."

Peter, a retired woodlands manager for Botany Bay Wood in Worsley, feeds his poultry twice a day with special feed and corn throughout the day.

He added: "If it isn't down to climate change it's because they are happy. I haven't changed anything with their routine.

"It's very nice to have baby peacocks and baby ducks at this time of year, but also strange."

Wildlife columnist Sean Wood said: "Warmer temperatures than normal will trigger some wild birds to lay early."



● Peter Corfield with some of his geese
Eddie Garvey

in brief

FESTIVE SHOW

DANCEWORKS
Eccles is holding a Christmas Concert at Eccles Parish Church on Thursday, December 18 at 6.30pm.

The concert will feature around 70 children singing Christmas songs.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children, which includes refreshments. All proceeds go to the Danceworks Community Fund.

Sprinting Santas help raise TV appeal funds



● Some of the runners dressed as Santa for the charity race

JAYNA PATEL

JOLLY Santas got their running shoes on for an annual riverside race.

A sea of Father Christmases of all ages got together for the MediaCityUK Santa Run, raising cash for either ITV's Text Santa appeal or a charity of their choice.

Runners also got to have a free skate on a nearby ice rink as well as tackling the course around the

Lowry and the Imperial War Museum North, while little ones were able to write a special letter to Santa. Race director Graham Jackson, from Organisers Sports Tours International, said: "Everyone made a real effort with their outfits and made the event a day to remember.

"All runners finished the day a winner and helped raise much needed funds for their charities."

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