

# PEREGRINE FALCON



**This is a peregrine falcon.**

**These birds of prey are found widely across the world.**





**Plummeting downwards  
in a “*stoop*”, peregrines  
reach speeds of 200mph.  
This makes them the fastest  
animal on Earth!**

**Peregrines hunt other birds, catching them in mid-flight.**

**Pigeons are a common prey species.**





**Many more falcons are now nesting in UK cities and towns, using ledges on tall buildings such as towers, cathedrals and universities as an alternative to steep, rocky clifffaces.**



A male peregrine is known as a *"tiercel"* and a female simply as a *"falcon"*. Whilst they look alike, she is larger.



**Rather than build their own, peregrines may use an abandoned nest, but mostly, they make a shallow scrape on a ledge in soil or gravel.**

**The female will lay between three to four speckled eggs.**





**Pink-skinned, damp chicks hatch after around a month.**

**When dry, they sport a coat of white, fluffy feathers that will be replaced as they grow.**





**Parents use their hooked  
beaks to tear away  
pieces of meat to  
feed to the chicks.**



**UK populations crashed in the 1960s, and there were hardly any remaining by the 1970s.**



**Peregrines have slowly recovered after pesticides that poisoned them were banned and laws put in place to protect them.**

**Incredibly, falcons are now an increasing common site across the country, with many sites where they can easily viewed, even in our busiest cities!**



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