

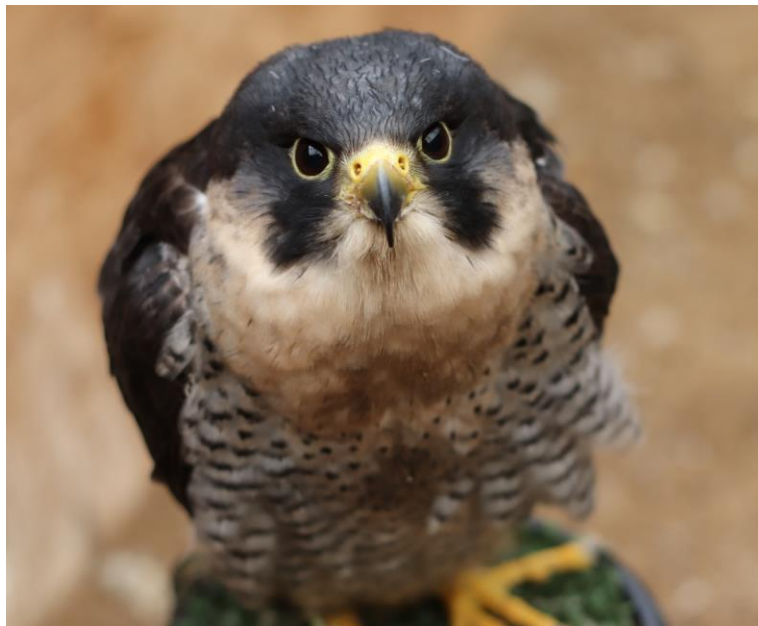
British Birds of Prey

PEREGRINE FALCON

#1

The peregrine falcon is the world's most widespread raptor and one of the most well known members of the falcon family. Able to fly at over 200mph, it is the world's **fastest** animal.

Males are known as the **tiercel**, which means 'one-third', as the male is usually about a third smaller than the female.



▲ Sorbus, our Peregrine Tiercel

They can be found on every ice-free landmass except New Zealand. Habitats range greatly, with **grasslands** being most common, and are only absent in the most extreme polar and tropical regions. In the UK, there are estimated to be around 1,500 breeding pairs.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
DISTRIBUTION	Worldwide, except Antarctica
WILD POPULATION	1,500 UK pairs estimated, 140,000 global
WINGSPAN	Approx. 90 to 100cm
WEIGHT	Approx. 750g (m) to 1kg (f)
LIFESPAN	Up to 20 years in the wild, 25 in captivity
DIET	99% medium-sized birds

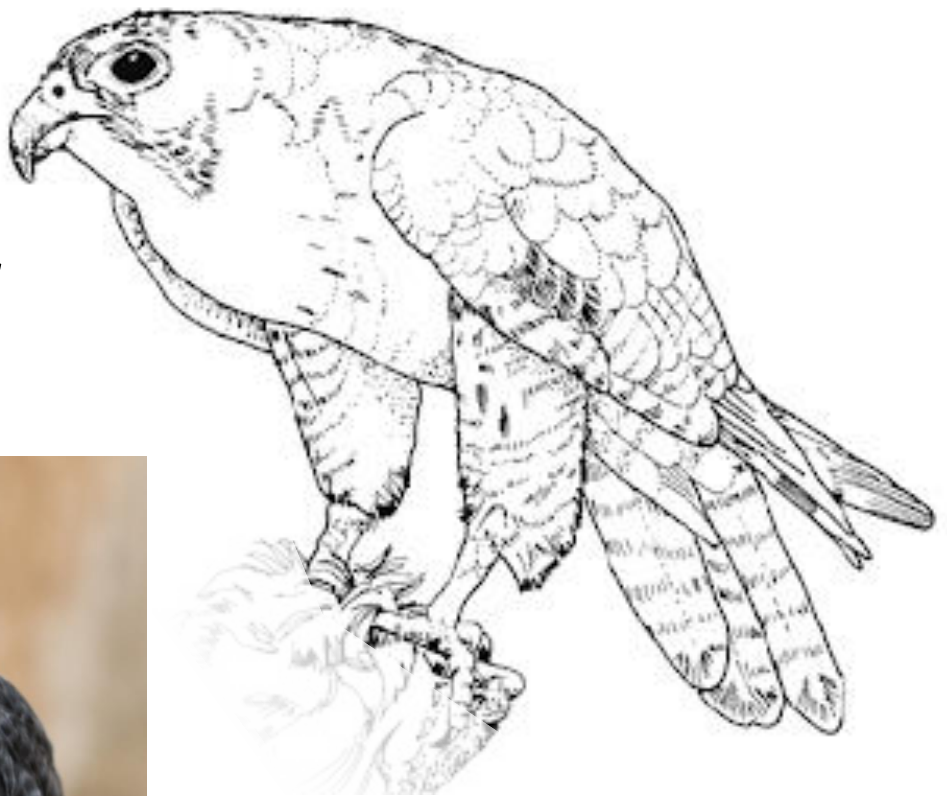
British Birds of Prey

PEREGRINE FALCON

#1

Peregrine falcons also take advantage of **urban areas**, using tall buildings for nesting and the abundant supply of pigeons and ducks as prey. Medium sized birds like these, as well as gulls and songbirds, form 99% of their **diet**, and are usually caught in the air! They will even catch bats and smaller falcons. Incredibly, almost a fifth of all the world's bird species are, somewhere, predated by the peregrine.

**COLOURING
PAGE**



Use Sorbus' photo to colour in the peregrine!

PEREGRINE FALCON

One of the defining features of falcons are the dark streaks below the eyes. These darker feathers are known as the **malar stripe**, and reduce the effect of glare into the eyes. They will even hunt with the **sun behind them**, as their prey cannot see them coming out of the blinding light. Peregrines are known for their incredible speed. Huxley's peregrine hybrid, Suki, is our quickest falcon, having been recorded at 212mph, whilst the world record stands at 242mph!

S	N	T	A	U	P	E	H	B	E	H	O	S	O	A
A	Z	U	I	H	R	L	I	K	P	G	O	M	R	T
B	F	G	Y	R	F	A	L	C	O	N	E	B	R	E
M	A	T	D	D	M	N	U	B	I	E	E	N	B	G
E	B	P	C	Y	J	N	I	K	R	E	J	C	K	Y
B	R	A	O	T	P	E	F	O	H	N	I	O	G	S
A	M	K	E	S	T	R	E	L	T	I	A	Y	U	M
R	P	F	Y	I	J	O	P	A	O	R	S	T	N	R
B	L	L	E	C	R	E	I	T	C	G	F	I	R	P
A	I	U	O	S	E	P	Y	E	T	E	L	F	K	R
R	E	Y	A	M	S	G	O	C	P	R	L	V	T	A
Y	B	N	C	S	A	K	E	R	E	E	R	O	L	I
M	K	E	F	J	U	D	L	M	L	P	F	K	N	R
F	I	X	D	C	H	A	O	U	A	R	O	E	U	I
R	E	G	G	U	L	N	Y	K	M	J	D	L	S	E

WORDSEARCH

- PEREGRINE
- TIERCEL
- GYRFALCON
- JERKIN
- SAKER
- LANNER
- LUGGER
- PRAIRIE
- APLOMADO
- BARBARY
- HOBBY
- MERLIN
- KESTREL

Peregrines are just one of the many types of falcons at Huxley's. Can you find any more in the wordsearch?

PEREGRINE FALCON

Typically, breeding starts at 3 years old. Both parents have a strong attachment to previous nesting sites, which may be **cliffs**, **trees** or **tall buildings**, and often return to them in following years. Typical wild lifespans are 13 years, with the maximum being about 20, and up to 25 in captivity. As is common with birds of prey, most only reach a much younger age, with just 40% estimated to live past a year.

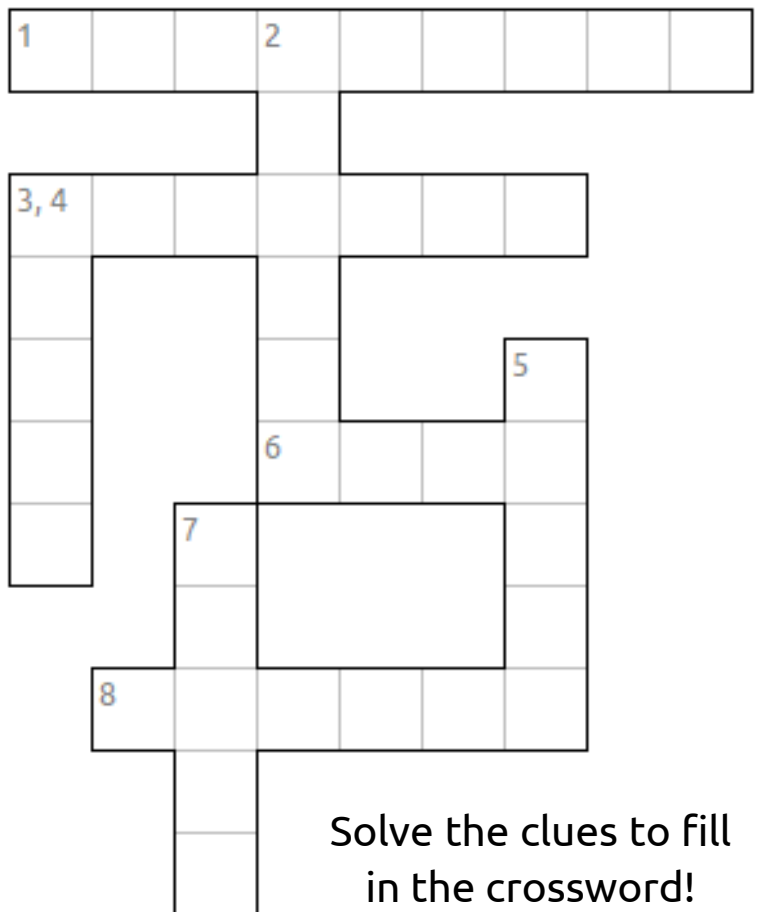
ACROSS

- 1 – A common habitat of the peregrine
- 4 – The name for a male peregrine
- 6 – The name of Huxley’s quickest peregrine falcon
- 8 – Peregrines like to use trees and _____ as nests

DOWN

- 2 – The name of Huxley’s peregrine tiercel
- 3 – The name for a bird of prey’s ‘claws’
- 5 – Peregrine’s main prey
- 7 – The name of the darker feathers under their eyes: _____ stripe

CROSSWORD



Solve the clues to fill in the crossword!
Using the **highlighted** words may help you.