

PEREGRINE FACTS



1

P

When in full stoop diving for its prey, a Peregrine can reach speeds of 242 mph making it the fastest recorded animal in the world.



2

G

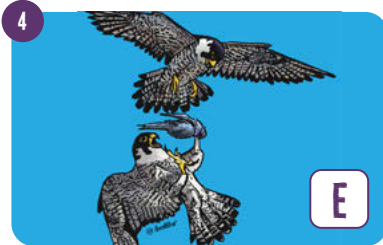
Peregrines have black marks below the eyes as if the bird is wearing a mask. The name Peregrine falcon comes from the Latin word 'peregrinus', which means 'wanderer' or 'pilgrim.'



3

E

Peregrines have binocular vision. They can see their prey from a distance of more than 3 kilometres. They have a third, see-through eye-lid that protects their eyes while they are diving.



4

E

Peregrines mate for life. Their courtship involves a display of dynamic aerial acrobatics, precise spirals and steep dives during which the male passes gifts of prey to the female in mid-air. The female flies upside-down to receive the food from the male's talons.



5

N

The female peregrine is 30% larger than the male to aid her egg laying abilities. Females lay up to 5 dark brown, speckled eggs. These are incubated for 29 to 33 days.



6

I

The chicks (known as 'Eyasses') double their weight in 6 days and at 3 weeks old, they are 10 times their size at birth! They will fledge (leave their nest) 42 to 46 days after hatching.



7

E

Peregrine have been nesting outside the clock tower at Rochdale Town Hall since 2008. They are one of 1500 breeding pairs in the UK. A special area was built to help provide a safe haven for them to sleep, breed and raise their young.



8

S

Scientists designing the first jet engines used the Peregrine's unique cone-shaped bones in their nostrils for inspiration. They fashioned similar cones in the opening of jet engines so that air could pass more slowly into the engines while flying at great speeds.



9

R

Pigeons make up the main diet of a Peregrine falcon. They also eat small ducks, doves, songbirds and moorhens. Urban birds hunt at night, using street lights to help see their prey.



10

R

Peregrines are a Schedule 1 listed species of The Wildlife and Countryside Act. They became a target during World War II when they were killed in order to protect homing pigeons. Populations reached critical levels in the 1950's due to pesticides, but improved legislation and protection has helped numbers to recover.

Unscramble the letters to make a word: