

## Peregrine word search



A peregrine falcon can fly up to 200 mph (388 km/h) when diving down to catch its prey in a 'stoop'. It's the fastest animal in the whole world!

We are lucky enough to have them living in Bristol. Try and spot them in the Avon Gorge from the Peregrine watch point on the Downs. Peregrines eat other birds, their favourite dinner is pigeon! They catch these in flight, and have some amazing adaptations (special features) that help to make them super speedy hunters. These include:



- Amazing eyesight. They can see their prey from up to 3 km away!
- Wings and a body that are 'aerodynamic' this means that they are perfectly shaped to cut through the air easily!
- They have super sharp claws or 'talons' to snatch up their prey.
- They have powerful muscles.

The female peregrine is larger than the male by a third. Because of this, she is called a 'falcon' and the male is called a 'tiercel' meaning 'third'. The eggs are laid in March, hatch in April and the chicks leave the nest after six weeks, around mid-June. The parents help the young with their hunting skills by passing food to them in mid-air, this is called a 'food pass'. You might be lucky enough to see this in June if you look out over the Gorge!

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Peregrine

Falcon

Tiercel

Stoop

Chick

Pigeon

Food pass

Aerodynamic

**Talons** 

Muscles

Eyesight