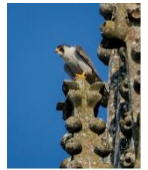


## Lancelot: PEREGRINE FALCON

## Fact Finding continued

The peregrine falcon is a crow-sized bird of prey. It has long, broad, pointed wings and a relatively short tail. It is blue-grey above, with a blackish top of the head and an obvious black 'moustache' that contrasts with its white face. Its breast is finely barred. It is swift and agile in flight.



Peregrines are highly prized falconry birds and have been trained for use in hunting game throughout history. However, these magnificent birds were at a low point in the 1960s due to human persecution and the impact of pesticides in the food chain. Improved legislation and protection has helped the birds to recover, but unfortunately they are still persecuted - birds are illegally killed to prevent them attacking game birds and racing pigeons.

Peregrines can often be found above rocky sea-cliffs and upland areas throughout the UK. Increasingly they are also using man-made objects such as electricity pylons or high buildings in cities as ideal perches from which to swoop down on potential prey. They can now be found in many urban areas. They mainly prey on medium-sized birds, but will also sometimes hunt small mammals. They are believed to be the fastest creatures on Earth, reaching speeds of up to 200 mph during the characteristic hunting dive or 'stoop'.

**Use the text to answer these questions:**

1. How did humans use peregrine falcons in the distant past?
2. What **two** factors caused their decline in the 1960s?
3. What two groups of people might want to kill peregrine falcons still?
4. What is the special word used for the peregrine falcon's hunting dive?

**Extract factual information from the text to complete this Fact File:**

<b>Name of creature</b>	<i>Peregrine falcon</i>
<b>Shape/size of wings</b>	
<b>Distinguishing features</b>	
<b>Natural habitat</b>	
<b>Threats to survival</b>	
<b>Interesting fact</b>	