

HARBS COLLECTIVE

PEREGRINE FALCON

FACT SHEET



Scientific name: *Falco peregrinus*

Bird family: Falcons

UK conservation status: Green (these are the birds which are not showing moderate or severe declines)

Protected by: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

What they eat: Medium-sized birds, such as wading birds, pigeons and small ducks.

Length: 39-50 cm

Wingspan: 95-115 cm

Weight: 600-1300 g

UK Population: 1,750 breeding pairs

The peregrine is a large and powerful falcon. 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, chasing prey.

The strongholds of the breeding birds in the UK are the uplands of the north and west and rocky seacoasts. Peregrines 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 and they have now expanded into many urban areas.

However, they are still persecuted - birds are illegally killed to prevent predation on game birds and racing pigeons. They also have eggs and chicks taken for collections and falconry.