



Fastest Bird in the World: Peregrine Falcon 1120

1. The peregrine falcon is not only the fastest bird in the world but also the fastest animal on the planet. As the bird flies, it hunts, dives, and soars to a great height while in the sky. Peregrine falcons dive very steep at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. After the bird finally reaches its top speed, it cruises in a horizontal flying angle at speeds of up to 90 kph (56mph). The peregrine falcon is thought to be the best hunter of the falcon bird family. The bird hunts using its exceptional eyesight in its habitat of wild uplands and rocky coasts, scanning the landscape for prey.

What Do They Look Like

2. Adults are blue-gray above with barred underparts and a dark head with thick sideburns. Juveniles are heavily marked with vertical streaks of horizontal bars on the breast. Peregrine falcons are the largest falcon over most of the continent, with long, pointed wings and a long tail. Peregrine's have long primary feathers that give the bird a long-winged shape. As with most raptors, males are smaller than females, so peregrines can overlap with large female merlins or small male gyrfalcons.
3. With the peregrine falcon having exceptional eyesight for its prey, they are able to spot their prey from great distance. Their eyes are larger and heavier than human eyes, and they can spot prey on the ground from a great height of 300m. As it spots its prey while flying in the sky, it soars using its pointed wings and looks for small birds to scoop up. The force and impact of the high speed dive that the falcon does when it sees its prey is often enough to kill a victim outright while still in mid-air.

Threats to the Peregrine Falcon

4. During the Second World War, peregrine falcons were shot down because of fear that the birds were delivering messages. Therefore, the amount of peregrine falcons is very limited. Today the main threat to the falcon is the chemical pollutants that the bird is ingesting from its prey. Poisons are not breaking down in the environment, but instead are accumulating in the food chain, which the falcons take in large quantities of. The ingestion of the chemicals is causing the breeding to be diminished.

“Peregrine Falcon” Written for educational purposes.

Cheetah

5. The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world. The cheetah is skilled at running down fast prey and can reach a top speed of 70 miles per hour. That’s three times faster than the top running speed for a human which is about 22 miles per hour! Amazingly, they can accelerate from 0 to 68 miles per hour in just three seconds. Cheetahs are the only big cat that can turn in mid-air while sprinting after their prey.
6. Cheetahs were once widespread across African and Asian continents. Now they are confined mostly to dry open grasslands of Sub-Saharan Africa with the majority inhabiting natural reserves or parks.



Body Appearance

7. The Cheetah has coarse, short fur that is yellowish tan in color and covered in solid black spots. They have between 2,000 and 3,000 spots that help camouflage them. The black tear-shaped streaks on the face help to reflect the sun when hunting for prey. The cheetah has a long slender body with thin legs



and a very long tail. Cheetah's long muscular tails have a flat shape that's used for balance and steering while walking and running. Adult cheetahs can weigh around 46–158 pounds.

What do Cheetahs Eat & Drink?

8. Cheetahs are carnivores that rely on meat for survival. Their diet is made up of smaller antelopes including springbok, steenbok, Thomson's gazelle, impalas, and duiker. Cheetahs will also feed on wildebeest calves and occasionally smaller animals including rabbits, hares, and birds. Cheetahs have evolved to live in an environment where water is scarce and can survive on one drink every three to four days.

What is the biggest threat to cheetahs?

9. With around 10,000–12,000 individuals left in the wild, cheetahs are Africa's most endangered big cat. Cheetahs have been hunted for their fur, but today the biggest threat to their survival is loss of habitat. With increased human settlements and road construction in their habitat, cheetahs' chance of survival are at risk.

Fastest Fish in the World: SAIL FISH



10. Sailfish are considered the fastest fish in the sea and can reach top speeds of 70 miles per hour. These sailfish can live for 13 to 15 years, but if caught and released by fishermen, they only have an average lifespan of 4 to 5 years. Sailfish are a type of billfish that are known for their pointed bills and dorsal fins. Its dorsal fins can be taller than the length of the sailfish's body. Sailfish start out as tiny larvae about a few millimeters in length and continue to grow rapidly during their first year. They can grow from 0.3 cm when born to 10 feet long from bill to tail and weigh around 220 pounds in adulthood. The fish is blue to gray in color with a white underbelly. Sailfish get their name from their spectacular dorsal fin that stretches nearly the length of their body and is much higher than their bodies are thick.

Sailfish and Eating

11. These fish spend their entire lives near the surface of the open ocean and can dive up to 1,150 feet to find food. Sailfish eat a wide variety of prey throughout their lifetimes. At a young age they eat tiny zooplankton and their prey increases in size as they do. As adults, sailfish eat fairly large bony fish, crustaceans, and squid. Sailfish even work together to use their dorsal fins and create a barrier around their prey to feed on sardines and anchovies.
12. Sailfish are eaten by a wide variety of predators. Newly hatched sailfish are preyed on by other fish that specialize on eating plankton. The size of their predators increases as they grow, and adult sailfish are not eaten by anything



other than larger predatory fish like open ocean shark species, orcas, and dolphinfish.

Population Today

13. Sailfish are fairly abundant throughout their range, and their population is stable. They are currently under no special status or protections.

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