

This summer the Irish Raptor Study Group (IRSG) are coordinating a national Peregrine Falcon breeding survey. The survey aims to determine how many Peregrines nest in Ireland.

The last full survey was completed in 2002. Peregrines typically nest on coastal cliffs, upland crags and rocky outcrops and in recent years have been found nesting in quarries and on man-made structures (e.g. buildings, castles and tower houses). As a result, hill walkers and climbers are in an ideal position to encounter Peregrines during the breeding season.

Peregrines are large powerful falcons with a medium length tail and pointed wings. Adult birds are blueish-grey on the back and have white finely barred underparts. The face is mainly white with a very distinct black moustache. Another key identification point is their screeching call, often heard while circling overhead. This usually indicates disturbance, e.g. a person too close to the nest.



*David Mc Nicholas 2013*

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