

Eurasian Eagle-Owl

Bubo bubo



ANIMAL FACTS



Physical Characteristics

- Largest owls in the world
- Large, orange eyes. Eyes are large to capture as much light as possible at night. This allows their eyesight to be excellent both at night and during the day.
- The heart-shape of an owl's face is like a radar dish, the radial disk, collects sound channeling it to offset ears, giving owls 3D hearing.
- The frayed edges of the owl's flight feathers allow it to fly silently so that it can hear its prey.
- Prominent ear tufts

Size

- Length: 22-30 inches
- Weight: up to 10 lbs
- Wingspan: 4.5—6.5 feet

Lifespan

- Wild: 10 to 20 years
- Zoos: 20 to 60 years

Behaviors

- Nocturnal
- Solitary except during breeding season.
- Extremely territorial with other owls.
- Use a variety of vocalizations such as hoots and clucks.

Diet

- Wild: small mammals, reptiles, other birds
- Zoo: rodents
- After eating its prey whole, it digests the meat. Owls, like other birds of prey, cannot digest fur and bones. The fur and bones are then coughed up as a pellet.

Reproduction

- Nest between rocks, in cave entrances, and cliff ledges.
- The female will typically only breed once a year, each time laying 1-4 eggs.
- The female incubated the eggs, while the male hunts.
- After the eggs hatch, the male will continue to bring food to the female.
- 60 days after hatching, the young begin to fly.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Forests, deserts, mountain ranges, and riverbeds. Live in almost every climatic and environmental condition on the Eurasian continent except humid tropical forests or arctic tundra.
- Range: North Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia



Conservation

- Status: IUCN Red List: Least Concern
- While they are widespread, they face localized threats (especially in Europe) where their numbers are steadily declining due to habitat loss.

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Strigiformes
- Family: Strigidae
- Genus: *Bubo*
- Species: *B. bubo*

Interesting Facts

- They are often called the Old-World version of America's widely distributed great horned owl.