



Eurasian Eagle Owl

(Bubo bubo)

The Eurasian Eagle Owl is the largest owl in the world. It is tawny in color, with textured patches of dark brown over the entire body. Its widely spaced ear tufts are dark in color, and extend outward from the upper parts of the eye. The facial disc is not as distinct as that of most other owls.

Habitat & Diet

The Eurasian Eagle Owl feeds mainly on mice, rats, hedgehogs, and squirrels, but its incredible size enables it to prey on creatures as large as a cat or very young fawn. This fierce hunter is comfortable searching for prey at both dusk and dawn, as well as during the middle of the night.

Fascinating Facts

In preparation for the breeding season, the male Eurasian Eagle Owl searches for suitable nesting sites. After he has chosen several locations, he takes his mate on a “tour” of the sites, allowing her to choose the one they will use for the next several years. Eurasian Eagle Owl young often leave the nest long before they are ready to fly. These young, called “branchers,” climb through the trees with the aid of their beaks, and can often be found as far as three trees away from their nest.

Status

For years, this large owl was considered a threat to humans. It was highly persecuted by man, who both hunted the bird and destroyed its nests. Today, the Eurasian Eagle Owl is on the red list of highly threatened species. Though direct human persecution is no longer a great threat, this owl has been suffering from habitat destruction throughout much of its range.



Height: 2 feet 4 inches

Weight: 3½-9 pounds

Wingspan: 5½ feet

Habitat: Densely wooded forests, gorges, and heathland, near open landscapes

Range: Eurasia, North Africa, and Arabia

Life Expectancy: Up to 60 years

Young: Owlet

Group: Parliament



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