

The STONHAM SCREECHER

Summer 2023



Great Grey Owls

Tura's Timetable

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Cobweb Club



Hello,
My name is Smokey and I am a Great Grey Owl. I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary with my mate Bandit and lots of raptor friends. Here are some interesting Great Grey Owl Facts!

The biggest threat to our wild population is from logging. This reduces dense forest canopies, which offer us cover, protection and important nest sites.

We do not like to scavenge for food or steal from other predators. We like to eat voles, mice, hares and moles.

We have the largest facial disc of any raptor. This is also known as a 'ruff' and focuses sound to help us locate prey.

We often hunt from a low 'listening post' like a tree stump, low tree branch, fence post or road sign.

We are not aggressive like most other predators. We are only fierce when protecting eggs or young. At those times we have been known to stand up to black bears!

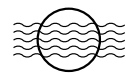
We will 'snow plunge' for food! When we hear prey under deep snow we can crash down through it to a depth equal to our body size!

Our size is deceptive! We have VERY thick plumage which makes us look big, but we weigh less than most large owls.

Got a question?? ASK AN OWL!

Do you have any questions about Owls or other Birds of Prey? Cobweb the Barn Owl is happy to answer and will personally respond to your letter or email, so please include your name and your parent's contact details.

Your next copy of The Stonham Screecher can be collected from the Sanctuary or you can download a digital copy when you register on line for FREE at www.owl-help.org.uk/cobweb-online



Cobweb
Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
Stonham Barns
Stonham Aspal IP14 6AT
email: cobweb.owl@gmail.com

Essential Enrichment

The word enrichment is used to describe an action or object which adds quality or value to an experience

Enrichment can encourage captive bred creatures to use their natural instincts and behaviours - just as they would in the wild.

It plays an essential part in ensuring that the birds are in tip-top physical and psychological condition

For example, the sanctuary's owls and other birds of prey do not need to hunt for their food, so enrichment resources encourage them to seek and scavenge

A variety of surfaces in aviaries can provide different sensory experiences for birds...for example bark, pebbles and grass give particular sensations when walked on.

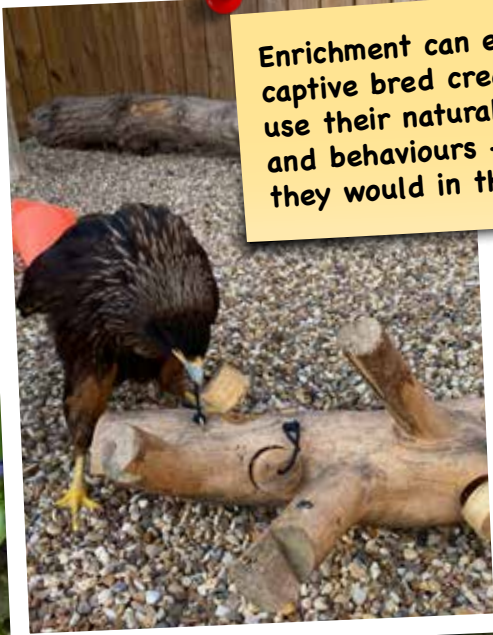
In the wild, Carcaras must lift stones and vegetation to find food, so the falconers often hide Stanley's food under cones or plant pots!

All the birds enjoy shredding old newspapers - this replicates the ripping and pulling of dead prey in the natural environment.

Old plastic bottles can be recycled in many ways to provide enriching games and puzzles for the birds!

At the owl sanctuary many different forms of enrichment are used to enhance the quality of life of the birds and animals

Tasty treats hidden inside ice provide a foraging opportunity for the birds, as well as keeping them cool in hot weather!



Mackinders Mix Up!



Kilifi and Nakuru are Mackinders Eagle Owls. They have lived together at the owl sanctuary for several years.

They are named after two places in Kenya, which is one of their native habitats.

Can you make ten words using the letters in Kilifi and Nakuru's names?

Nakuru has done the first two for you!

1. run

6.....

2. fill

7.....

3.....

8.....

4.....

9.....

5.....

10.....

Tura's Timetable

Tura, the Siberian Eagle Owl is a very busy bird!

She is one of the owl sanctuary's most experienced flying demonstration birds. Tura has lots of activities to fit into her day.

Can you put them into CHRONOLOGICAL order?
Chronological means placing the events in the order in which they happen

2.30pm flying display

12.30pm relaxation

3.30pm dinnertime

5.00pm evening chat with owl neighbours

10.00am feather preening

9.00am breakfast

1.30 nest maintenance

11.30am flying display

10.30am foot & beak check with falconer

8.30sm morning weigh-in