

EAGLE OWL

BUBO BUBO

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Sturdy eagle owl is the largest owl of the world. It has bushy ear tassels and striped stomach. Colourful plumage is a good camouflage with black and brown dots; bird is not spotted easily when it's sleeping up in a tree. Its noise is hollow dissyllabic calling [hoo-hu]. Sexes are similar in appearances.

PREVALENCE:

They can be found almost in all kinds of environments, they lack only from the treeless plain (also in Australia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean) Population in Finland is strongest in the southern and western parts of country. The number of Eagle owls have recently increased thanks to protection and rat flocks at dumps.

HABITAT:

Habitat of the eagle owl changes greatly, but to the priority it sets rocky terrains and forests. In Europe species has almost disappeared from thickly occupied regions.

LIFE STYLES:

Here and there eagle owl is moving also in daytime, although it is mostly the bird of the night. Nightly calling informs to the other owls that territory is reserved. Calling of the male owl carries even 4 km. Usually larger species eats smaller and so eagle owl is indeed absolute prince of the night, which may quite efficiently dispose other owl species from its territory.

NOURISHMENT:

Eagle owl trusts its precise sight when hunting and eats miscellaneous food from insect to rabbits, rats, waterfowls and crows. Haul is transported in the spout and swallowed as whole. Unfit part of food goes away with vomit balls, which are on the average 77x31x28 mm. Thanks to its compact feathering, it needs 30 percent less nutrition than other same-sized birds.

BREEDING:

Owls are not skilled nest builders. Most owls nest in trees or find suitable hole in the ground or rocks. Old nests of crows and birds of prey are also good enough. The female bathes 2-3 eggs for 34 days. The male takes care of her feeding during that period. Several owl species defend their chicks furiously against intruders. The chicks beg loudly food and they are dependent from their mother for several months.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

There are many colour forms and subspecies from dark to light.

