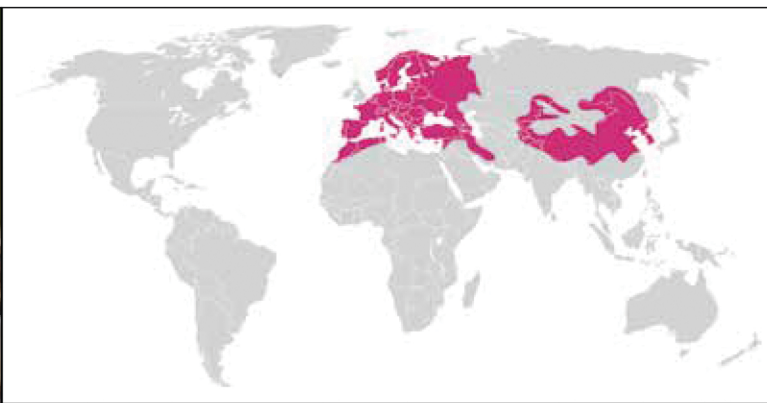


EURASIAN EAGLE OWL

updated March 2017



Range	All across northern half of Europe and Asia
Habitat	Variety of habitats including coniferous forests, warm deserts, mountain ranges, and river beds; prefer to live in rocky landscapes, especially when nesting
Diet (wild)	Small to medium-sized mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians
Diet (captivity)	Bird of prey diet, dead mice, rats, chicks
Description	Height: 23–30 inches; wingspan: 5–6½ feet; weight: 3½–9 pounds. Very large owl with prominent ear tufts and vivid orange eyes. Buff-brown upper-parts are heavily marked with a black, grayish facial disk. Under-parts are a paler buff-brown with black streaks, and fine brown barring on the belly with a white throat. Females are larger than males.
Lifespan	Wild: 20 years. Captivity: Over 60 years
Reproduction	The female lays 1–4 eggs and incubates them for about 35 days. Young begin to leave nest at about five weeks and can fly within eight weeks. Owlets are independent by about 24 weeks. Breeding is in late winter. They never build their own nests; instead, they use a cavity, debris platforms in trees or on cliffs, or old large stick nests from another raptor. They reach breeding age at two years.
Behavior	Eagle owls have a large repertoire of hoots and growls, chirps and clicks and beak-clacks they use to communicate moods and needs. Owlets leave the nest before fledging and are called “branchers.” The young climb around on tree branches until their wings are sufficiently feathered for flight.
Our animals	1 male (Oslo) Born: 1994 at the World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis; arrived at PPZ from the Cincinnati Zoo
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle owls are the largest owls in the world, and they are best known for their large, striking, orange eyes. They are often called the Old World version of America’s widely distributed great horned owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>). • Eagle owls prefer to stay within the same territory unless they are forced to leave due to food shortages or if they are driven out by other owls. • Once eagle owls reach adulthood, they are at a very low risk of predation. They are at the top of the food chain in their niche and they are not a major food source for any other species. • The oldest known paintings in the world, in the Chauvet Cave in southern France, dated between 30,000–32,000 years of age, depict a solitary image of an owl. It has conspicuous ear-tufts and a heavily streaked breast and bears a strong resemblance to the Eurasian eagle owl. • Despite their nocturnal lifestyle, owls do not have a tapetum lucidum, which is a layer of highly reflective cells found in the eyes of many nocturnal mammals, including carnivores, ungulates, rodents, whales, fish, sharks, crocodilians, and fruit bats. The tapetum bounces the light that hits the retina back again into the eye, increasing the amount of total light that hits the retina. It’s the reason that many animals’ eyes glow when light is shone into them and different species glow in different colors.

Phylum
ChordataClass
AvesOrder
StrigiformesFamily
StrigidaeGenus
Bubospecies
B. bubo