

The STONHAM SCREECHER

Winter 2015



Training Facts

Team S.O.S!

Measure for Mary

Super Syllables

Cecil the Spectacled Owl

Cobweb's Corner



Hello!

My name is Cecil and I am a Spectacled Owl!
I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
with my partner Phyllis and over 80 owls and other
birds of prey. You may be interested in these
Spectacled Owl facts!!

We are "perch and pounce" hunters which means
that we sit very still and quiet in our tree until
a tasty treat passes...then we **POUNCE!**

It is difficult to see us in the wild as
we like to hide in low hanging foliage.
This makes us difficult for predators to spot!

Spectacled owls live in rainforests and woodland
in much of South America. They are common in Costa Rica,
Columbia and the Amazon.

We are non-migratory birds, which means that
we stay in the same place all year round, rather
than moving from place to place...Just like humans!

Our call sounds like a hammer tapping a hollow
tree!!...PUP-pup-pup-po!!
My femail relatives also scream like hawk...
... "ker-WHEEER!!" Try it yourself!!



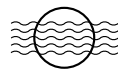
Our local communities are very happy that we live
close by - we eat mice, rats and nasty insects
that would otherwise eat crops.

The most striking thing about us is our white
"spectacles" around our eyes. When we are young,
our heads are completely white. Gradually, over
about 3 years, our feathers change colour until we
are left with just our spectacles!

Sadly, if the rainforests continue to be felled for
timber, our habitat will be gradually destroyed.

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 with an answer!**



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TEAM S.O.S. IN TRAINING

When summer ends and autumn arrives, big changes are made to the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary's flying team.

When the falconers first bring the winter team out, they are too heavy to work. Their weight needs to be carefully reduced before they can begin training.

Hawks which have spent the summer months relaxing in the aviaries are brought out to work on falconry courses and field days.



Once they are the proper weight for flying, the falconers fit them with soft leather anklets and jesses, so that they can hold them securely without hurting their legs.

The first step of training is "fist jumping". The bird is placed on a perch close to the ground. It is then encouraged to jump vertically up to the falconer's glove, for a tasty reward of food!



Fist jumping rebuilds the bird's fitness levels and reminds them that the falconer's glove must be the centre of their attention.

The birds are then exercised outside, first of all on a long cord or creance. This allows them to fly further and more freely, until they are able to navigate their way around the flying ground again.

The whole process of retraining Team S.O.S for the winter season takes about 6 - 8 weeks.



Super Syllables!

Lily the Little Owl has two syllables in her name...Li - ly.
How many syllables do her bird friends have in their names?

Bug..... Dodge.....

Dandelion..... Comet.....

Josephine..... Templeton.....

Lanark..... Cecil.....



Dodge



Bug



Josephine



Lanark



Cecil



Templeton



Dandelion



Comet

Measure for Mary

Mary has to make new jesses for some of the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary's owls and other birds of prey. Jesses are thin straps made from soft leather which the falconers fit to the bird's legs to hold them gently.

The length of the jesses needed depends on the size of the bird:

Bald Eagle.....30cms.

Harris's Hawk....20cms

Tawny Owl.....15cms

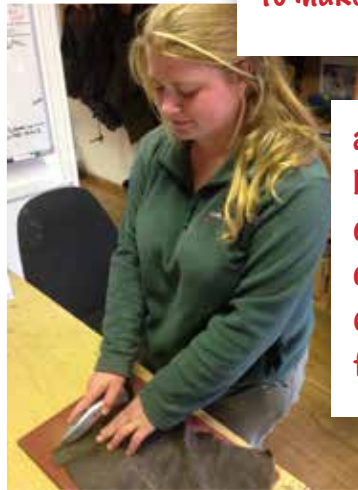
Barn Owl.....12cms.

Peregrine Falcon....12cms.

American Kestrel...10cms

How much leather, in metres and centimetres, will Mary need to make jesses for the following list of birds?

- A Bald Eagle and a Tawny Owl?
- An American Kestrel and two Barn Owls?
- Three Harris Hawks?
- Two Tawny Owls, a Peregrine Falcon and a Barn Owl?
- An American Kestrel and two Tawny Owls?
- A Harris's Hawk, a Bald Eagle and a Barn Owl?



Remember that each bird has two legs!!