

# The **STONHAM** **SCREECHER** **Spring** **2022**



Little Owls

Cobweb Club

Feed Figures

Plop, Whizz, Bang

Rescue Rights & Wrongs



Hello,  
My name is Holly and I am a Little Owl. I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary with my owl friends. You may be interested to know that:

Although we now live in Britain, we only arrived here from the Mediterranean in the 1900s.

We are well suited to ground hunting, as we are able to run fast and hop! How fast can you hop?

Some people think that we look fierce! Our facial plumage makes us look quite quizzical and grumpy! Can you pull a grumpy face?

Over the years we have been known as Dutch Owl, French Owl and Little Night Owl.

In medieval times, people ate Little Owls and their eggs to cure hangovers and gout!!

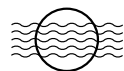
We were linked to the greek goddess Athena who was the goddess of divine wisdom. Ever since, we have been described as wise, although our brain is only the size of a peanut!!

We usually hunt at dusk and like to eat shrews, mice and voles. Spiders and beetles are also a special treat!! yum!!

### 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](http://www.owl-help.org.uk/cobweb-online)**



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# Rescue Rights & Wrongs

Spring is the season when baby owls and other birds of prey make their first appearance in the world

The wards of the raptor hospital at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary become very busy

Many baby owls are brought in after being found cold and wet, by members of the public.



Tawny Owls are good parents and will usually feed and stay close to grounded babies. Using beaks and talons, they will help the baby back into its nest.

BUT....what should you do if you find a young owl that looks abandoned? Firstly... alert a grown up and ask them to quietly help you assess the situation.

So.... do not remove grounded tawny babies unless they are in immediate danger from predators, or traffic! The parents will probably not be too far away.

Barn Owl parents, however, will not feed fallen babies, so they may need assistance. If the baby is not injured and you can see its nest, ask an adult to try and replace it.

If no nest is obvious, follow the rescue instructions below:

1. Gently throw a jumper or blanket over the owlet, enabling a grown up to pick it up safely.
2. Line a well ventilated cardboard box with a towel and hold open whilst the adult places the baby inside.
3. Do not offer the bird food or water... it will be too stressed to eat or drink.
4. Together, transport the bird to the nearest bird of prey centre or wildlife rescue where experienced staff will care for it.
5. Always wash your hands after touching an owl or other wild bird.



Baby owls often fall from trees whilst they are learning to fly - or 'branching out'.

# PLOP, WHIZZ, BANG!!

Plop the Barn Owl's name is an onomatopoeia (pronounced on-o-mat-o-pee-a). This is a word that imitates or suggests the sound it is describing.



We use a lot of onomatopoeia in daily conversation.

Can you circle the onomatopoeic words in these sentences? Plop has done the first two for you!

Cats like to **purr** when they are happy  
Dogs often **bark** when they are excited.

I like to splash in puddles.  
I like fireworks that go whizz and bang!

Ducks quack when they are calling to their ducklings.  
At the beach, I love the roar of the waves.

Every morning, I squirt toothpaste onto my brush.  
My little brother likes to slap paint on his picture!

## FEED FIGURES!

Twice a day all the owl sanctuary's owls and other birds of prey are fed by the falconers and volunteers.

The quantity of food given to each bird depends upon their size, species and activity level.

Every day the following birds need:

Fynn the Golden Eagle: 12 chicks  
Bug the Tawny Owl: 3 mice  
Holly the Little Owl: 2 mice  
Taiga the Great Grey Owl: 5 chicks  
Rocky the Turkey Vulture: 7 mice  
Tura the European Eagle Owl: 4 mice

Who eats twice as many mice as Holly?

How many mice will the falconers need to feed Rocky & Bug?

Who eats more mice - Holly or Tura?

How many chicks are needed to feed Fynn and Taiga?

Does Rocky eat more mice than Bug?

Can the falconers feed both Taiga and Fynn with 15 chicks?

Who eats as many mice as Tura and Bug put together?