



The **STONHAM SCREECHER**

Spring/Summer 2018

Rocky Rules!

Egg-xact Figures!

Cobweb's Corner

Anklets & Jesses

European Eagle Owls

The Schools Newsletter of the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary ~ www.owl-help.org.uk

Hello, my name is Sam
and I am a European Eagle Owl.
I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
with my partner Rhiea. You might
be interested in these E.E.O. facts:



We have enough crushing power in our
feet to burst a tennis ball!

We are one of the most long lived owls
in the world. In the wild we can live
into our early 20s, but in captivity we
can live over 50 years!

We prefer rocky habitat for cover and protection
and scrape a hollow in the stoney ground to lay
our eggs in rather than building a nest.

We are one of the largest owl species
in the world. Females can have a
wingspan of up to 188cms. or 6ft. 2ins.
- that's like your dad lying on his side!!

The Finnish national football team was nicknamed
"Huuhkajat" (The European Eagle Owls) after an
E.E.O. named Bubi interrupted the 2007 Finland-
Belgium international for 6 minutes - Bubi was
voted "2007 Helsinki Citizen of the Year".

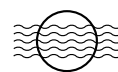
The largest recorded item of prey taken
by an Eagle Owl was a Roe Deer, weighing 13kg. That's
equivalent to a human tackling a horse for dinner!!

Eagle owls became extinct in the UK
in the 1800s.

It takes us four years to gradually moult
and replace our first plumage.

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!**

Find out more about how we manage and respect your data
@ www.owl-help.org.uk/sos-privacy-policy/



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ANKLETS & JESSES!

When the owls and other birds of prey are flown by the falconers, they must wear thin strips of leather round their ankles called jesses.

Jesses are attached to a leather anklet, which fits close to the bird's leg.

Jesses and anklets are made from very soft kangaroo leather. This is strong enough to hold the bird firmly, but soft enough to be comfortable.



Using the Jesses, the falconers can guide the birds' feet onto his glove when training the bird to fly.

The length of the jesses must allow the bird freedom of movement and room to stretch, whilst keeping it secure.



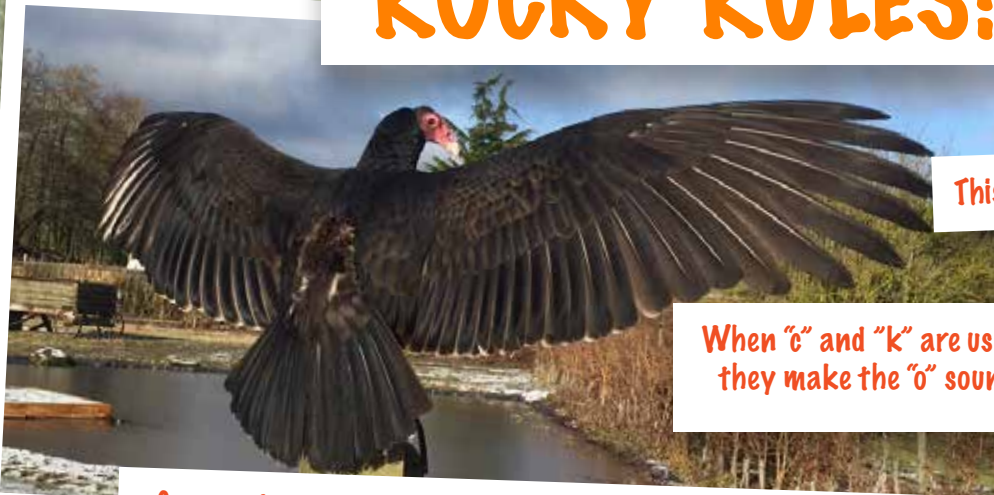
The smooth side of the leather is always placed next to the bird's leg and the rougher side away from it, so that dirt cannot become trapped and irritate the skin.



When birds are resting in the weatherings, the jesses can be used to tether them gently to the perch.

Jesses have been used since the earliest days of falconry - the first recorded falconer in England was Ethelbert II, King of Kent in the 8th century!

ROCKY RULES!!



This is Rocky the turkey Vulture.

When "c" and "k" are used together in Rocky's name, they make the "o" sound short: it is a short vowel.

Can you list 10 more words in which "c" and "k" are used together to make a short vowel sound?

Rocky has done the first two for you!

- clock
- black

EGG-XACT FIGURES!

Spring is a busy time at the owl sanctuary - lots of birds are laying eggs and rearing young.

Head falconer, Liz keeps a tally of all the eggs and makes sure that they are all well looked after by the birds.

This month's egg tally so far is:

- African Spotted Owls - 3 eggs
- Buzzards - 3 eggs
- Peregrine falcons - 2 eggs
- European Eagle Owls - 6 eggs
- Tawny Owls - 2 eggs
- Barn Owls - 4 eggs

Which birds have laid more eggs, the Tawny Owls or the African Spotted Owls?

If 1/10 of the eggs do not hatch, how many will produce babies?

Which birds have both laid two eggs?

How many eggs have been laid in total this month?

Which bird has laid three times as many eggs as the Tawny Owls?



How many eggs have the European Eagle Owl, Barn Owl and Buzzard laid between them?