

The **STONHAM SCREECHER**

Winter 2017 / 18

Weighty Matters

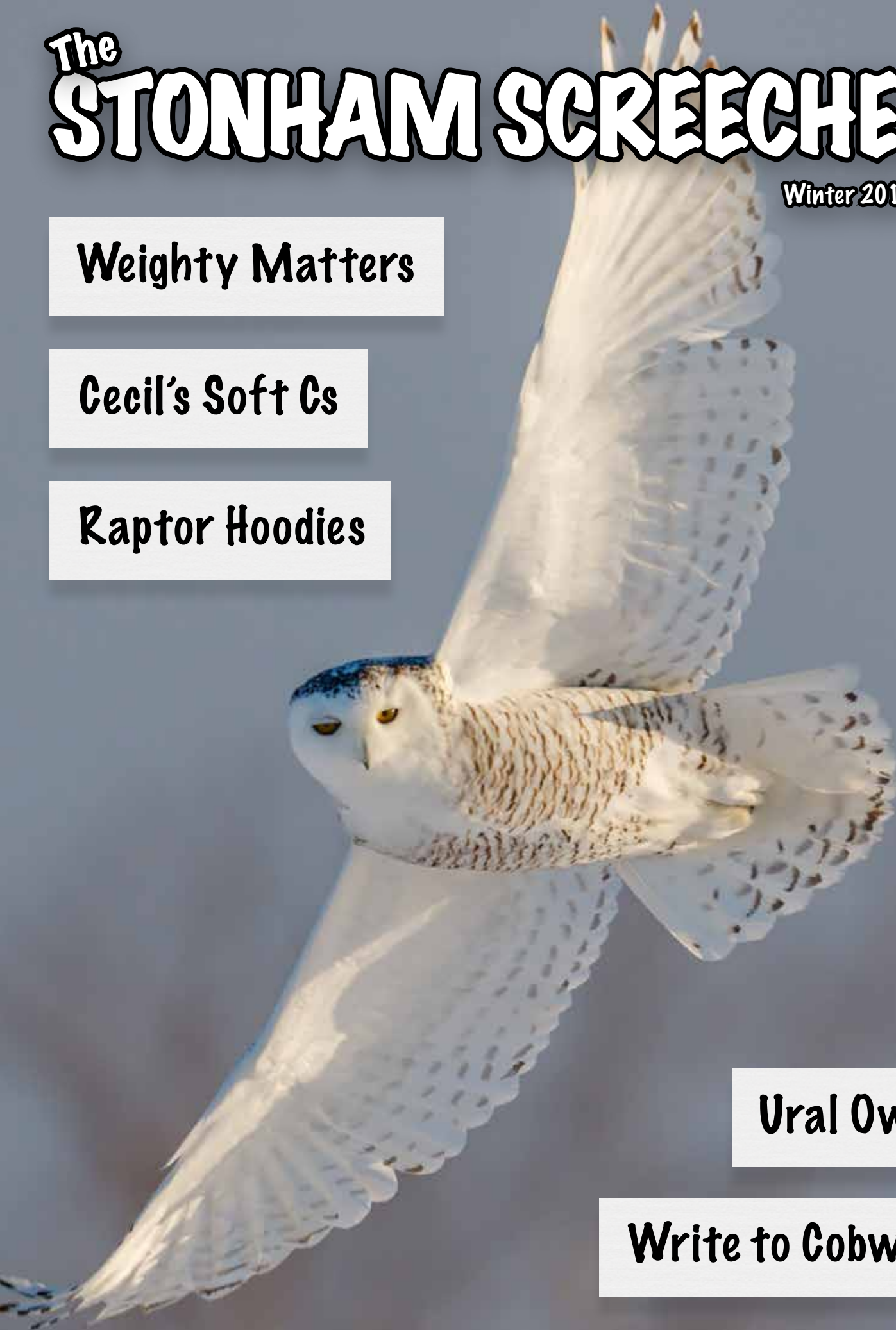
Cecil's Soft Cs

Raptor Hoodies

Ural Owls

Write to Cobweb

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





Hello!
 My name is *Bumble* and I am a Ural Owl.
 I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
 with lots of my friends.
 Here are some Ural Owl Facts

We have striking dark brown eyes with pretty pink or reddish lids.

Unlike many birds, we do not travel far, but remain in the same territory for many years.

We are not as shy as some owls and can be studied quite closely by humans..... but if we have babies in the nest we are VERY aggressive!

We mate for life and rear 3 or 4 chicks at a time - we feed them for about two months after they leave our nest.

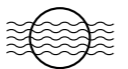

We often use old tree trunks and squirrel dreys as nests and in Finland, many manmade nestboxes are provided for us to use.

Just like our Barn Owl Friends, we like to eat shrews, voles, mice and rats.....delicious!!

We communicate to each other with a wide variety of noises - from rough nasal "barking" to a high pitched heron-like cry

Our wild Ural cousins live in birch, alder and beech forests, throughout Norway, Sweden, Japan, Korea, Russia and Siberia.....brrrrr!

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!

 
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RAPTOR HOODIES

If you have ever visited the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, you will probably have seen birds of prey with little hoods on!!

Falcons are trained daily from a young age to accept the hood, which keeps the bird calm whilst being moved or when other birds of prey are close by.

A falcon's eyesight is about ten times sharper than a human's, so if not hooded, it's senses are constantly on high alert.

The term "hoodwinked" (meaning tricked) comes from falconry. In medieval times, falconers tricked their hooded birds into thinking night had fallen!



Hoods are made from very soft kip or kangaroo leather, offering maximum comfort for the birds.



Each hood is specially made to a falcon's individual requirements. This prevents damage to plumage and ensures good air circulation, so the bird can breathe freely. Hoods NEVER come into contact with birds' eyes!

The use of hoods originated in Arabia - they were introduced to Western culture during the 13th century.

Cecil's Soft C's



Cecil the spectacled Owl has two soft "c"s in his name!
A soft "c" sounds like an "s".

Can you list ten more words which contain a soft "c"?

Cecil's Partner Phyllis has helped you to get started!

Pencil.....

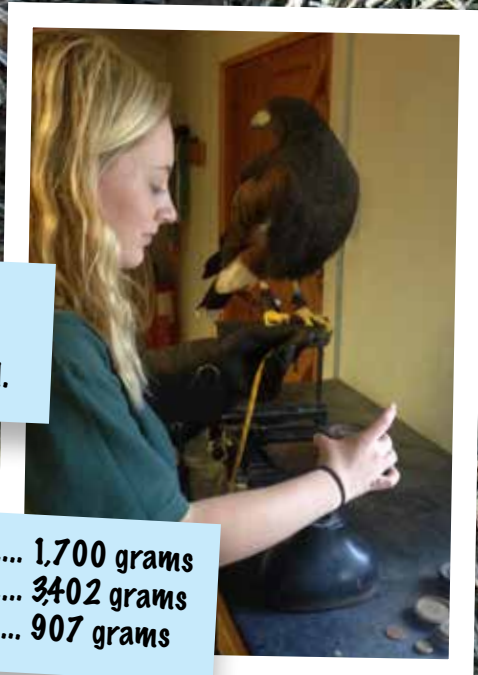
Face.....

Weighty Matters

The S.O.S. flying team must all fly at specific weights.
If they are too heavy, they will not return to the falconers fist.
If they are too light, their performance and condition cannot be maintained.

Melvin the Harris Hawk 652 grams
Rascal the Tawny Owl..... 320 grams
Cobweb the Barn Owl..... 248 grams

Pungu the Bateleur Eagle 1,700 grams
Lincoln the Bald Eagle..... 3,402 grams
Jester the Red Kite..... 907 grams



How much lighter than Rascal is Cobweb?

How much heavier than Rascal is Melvin?

What is the difference between Lincoln's flying weight and Pungu's?

Is Melvin heavier or lighter than Jester?

What is the sum of Jester and Lincoln's weights?