

# The STONHAM SCREECHER

Autumn/Winter 2013-14



**Wild Owl Nest Boxes**

**Birkett's Bloomers**

**Write to Cobweb!**

**A Day With Dean**

**Bug the Tawny Owl**

**Breakfast Tweets**



**Hello!**  
**My name is Bug and I am a Tawny Owl. I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary with my friend Beak and about 80 owls and other birds of prey. You may be interested in these Tawny Owl facts:**

**As well as mice & voles, Tawny Owls like to eat frogs, moths and worms**

**Tawny Owls can be deceptively aggressive - the famous local wildlife photographer Eric Hosking lost an eye whilst photographing them!**

**Tawny Owls are strictly nocturnal, which means they are only active at night time in the dusk or dark**

**The large black eyes of the Tawny Owl ensure that their night vision is excellent. Their hearing is also exceptionally sensitive**

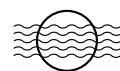
**There are no Tawny Owls in Ireland or on the Isle of Wight as they do not like to cross large stretches of water**

**In the past, Tawny Owls have been known as Ivy Owls, Brown Owls, Hoot Owls and Hill Hooters**



**It is the Tawny Owl which makes the famous owl call - male Tawnies call "Tu-whit" and females reply "Tu-whoo"!**

**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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# A DAY WITH DEAN

Dean is the falconer who is responsible for looking after the owl nest boxes put up in the wild by The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary and The Thornham Owl Project.

It's very important to provide safe man-made nest boxes in which wild owls can lay eggs and raise their young as many natural sites are disappearing.



In late Spring, Dean checks the boxes and notes the ones which owls have laid eggs in. He returns after the eggs have hatched and the young are about 3 weeks old.



Dean makes sure that nest boxes are placed in areas where there is a good source of food for the owls - near the grass margins of fields and on the edge of woodland.



He removes one baby at a time and records their weight and estimates their age & sex by measuring their primary feathers.



After gathering this information, Dean carefully puts a metal ring with a number on it around each owl's ankle so that they can be identified in future,



Dean is always looking for suitable new sites for wild owl nest boxes. If there is one near your school or home - remember, it has to be secluded and inaccessible from the ground - please let him know at [info@owl-help.org.uk](mailto:info@owl-help.org.uk)

# Birkett's Bloomers!!



Birkett is a very handsome Great Horned Owl, but not very intelligent!

He is sending out Christmas cards to lots of the other owls at the Sanctuary, but has misspelt their names on the envelopes!

Can you help Birkett by spelling the names of his owl friends correctly?

To:    
LEGAE  
Owl

To:    
NARB  
Owl

To:    
TITETL  
Owl

To:    
LEGAE  
Owl

To:    
SOYNW  
Owl

To:    
ALDECEPSTC  
Owl

## BREAKFAST TWEETS

Try this simple numbers quiz to test your adding & subtraction

Mr & Mrs Tawny Owl have been out hunting all night...

They have brought lots of treats back to their tree for their three babies!

How many pieces of food have they brought back to the nest in total?

Add together the number of fish, moths and voles that have been caught?

Have Mr & Mrs Tawny Owl caught fewer voles than fish?

They have caught:

6 voles

3 mice

3 frogs

9 worms

9 moths

3 fish

If the food is shared equally amongst the babies, how many fish will each get?

If Mr & Mrs Tawny Owl eat one worm each, how many are left for the babies?

Have more mice than moths been caught?