

The STONHAM SCREECHER

Spring/Summer 2013

Write to
Cobweb!

LILY
the Little Owl

Pungu
the Bateleur Eagle

Spring Chicks!

**Maz's Muddle
Puzzle**

Hello!

My name is Lily and I'm a Little Owl. I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary with my friend Nightshade and about 80 owls and other birds of prey. Here are some Little Owl facts:



Little Owls weigh about 200g - the same as two big bars of chocolate!

Little Owls came to Britain from the Mediterranean in the 1800s.

Long legs allow the Little Owl to run, walk & hop fast, so they are good ground hunters.

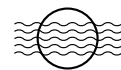
Many years ago it was thought that eating Little Owl eggs would cure madness.

When Little Owls are alarmed they bob their heads up & down!

Ancient Greeks believed that the Little Owl was the messenger of Athene, the goddess of wisdom (hence the phrase 'Wise Old Owl'). The Little Owl appeared on Greek coins.

Little Owls like to eat mice, small birds an LOTS of insects - delicious!

Do you have any questions about Owls and other Birds of Prey? Cobweb is happy to answer all your questions and will personally reply to every letter or email!



**Cobweb
Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
Stonham Barns
Stonham Aspal IP14 6AT
email: cobweb.owl@gmail.com**

Spring Chicks

Spring is a time of great activity and excitement at Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, as many of the birds are laying & hatching eggs!

All native owls sit on their eggs for 28-30 days - that's a whole month of sitting still!

Female owls keep their eggs cosy & snug underneath their thick, soft feathers until it's time to hatch.

Once baby owls hatch they stay in their nest with their mother for several weeks.

The feathers on the wings & tails of baby owls grow faster than on the rest of their body so that they can start to practice flying as soon as possible.



Sometimes the falconers need to train a new bird to take part in flying displays. To do this they will 'hand-rear' a baby bird, so that it gets used to being fed and cared for by people instead of its mother.

Being close to humans from a very early age stops the baby being frightened of people and allows the falconers to train it with food to become part of the flying team which helps us illustrate how important conservation is.

I THINK I'VE FOUND AN ORPHANED BABY TAWNY OWL - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Many 'orphaned' owls are not usually orphaned at all - they may be just in the process of testing their wings! 'Fledglings' as they're called tend to spread out and away from their nests long before they can actually fly - this prevents overcrowding in the nest as the youngsters grow rapidly, and is nature's way of helping to minimise any threat to the entire clutch from predators. But, many young birds lose their footing during these first explorations and fall to the ground.

During the Spring you are likely to find apparently 'orphaned' youngsters in woodland or near trees, their natural habitat. A grounded Tawny chick may look lost and vulnerable, but the chances are its parents know exactly where it is and they will continue to feed it even though it may be on the ground away from the nest.

Many young Tawnies are in fact quite capable of climbing back into their tree using beaks and talons, and so if you believe it to be a Tawny Owlet, the best thing you can do is make sure it is out of the way of direct harm from predators, vehicles and people by putting it in the branches of the nearest tree, and quietly walking away.

If you need further advice, please contact us - **OUR NUMBER IS 08456 807 897** or email info@owl-help.org.uk. Make sure to always wash your hands if you have touched a bird.



PUNGU'S PUZZLE

This is Pungu. She is a Bateleur Eagle and a member of the S.O.S. flying team.

Bateleur Eagles come from Africa, where they eat snakes & lizards as well as mice & birds.

Pungu has a very social nature and greets everyone with an impressive display of her wings!

See how many words can you make from the letters that spell

B A T E L E U R E A G L E



MAZ'S MUDDLE

Falconer Maz needs to move 9 owls into 3 new aviaries. She must not put the same number of owls in each aviary and each aviary must have an odd number of owls. How many birds will she put in each aviary?

