



GREAT HORNED OWL

Bubo virginianus

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The Great Horned Owl has a body length of 18-25 inches, with a wingspan of 40-55 inches.

WEIGHT

Great Horned Owls weigh between 2 and 5 lbs.

FOOD HABITS

Great Horned Owls are nocturnal hunters that feed primarily on small mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, and skunks. They will also hunt for birds such as ducks, grouse, quail, and even other owls.

HABITAT

Great Horned Owls can be found in woodlands, forest openings, and rocky canyons with cliffs..

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Great Horned Owl is found throughout North and Central America. It can also be found in some areas of South America.

FUN FACT

Like other owls, Great Horned Owls eat their prey whole and then regurgitate the bones, fur, and feathers in pellets after the meat has been digested. These owl pellets can typically be found in piles under the favorite roosting trees of the owls.



Although the Great Horned Owl is not the largest owl in North America, it is certainly the most aggressive and powerful. It is recognizable by the tufts of feathers on its head that resemble ears or horns. The Great Horned Owl is mottled brown, although individuals from the Arctic can be quite pale. In our area, Great Horned Owls initiate courtship in January and February, and eggs may be laid by the end of February or the beginning of March. Two or three eggs are usually laid. The adults guard the young aggressively until they are old enough to leave the nest.

