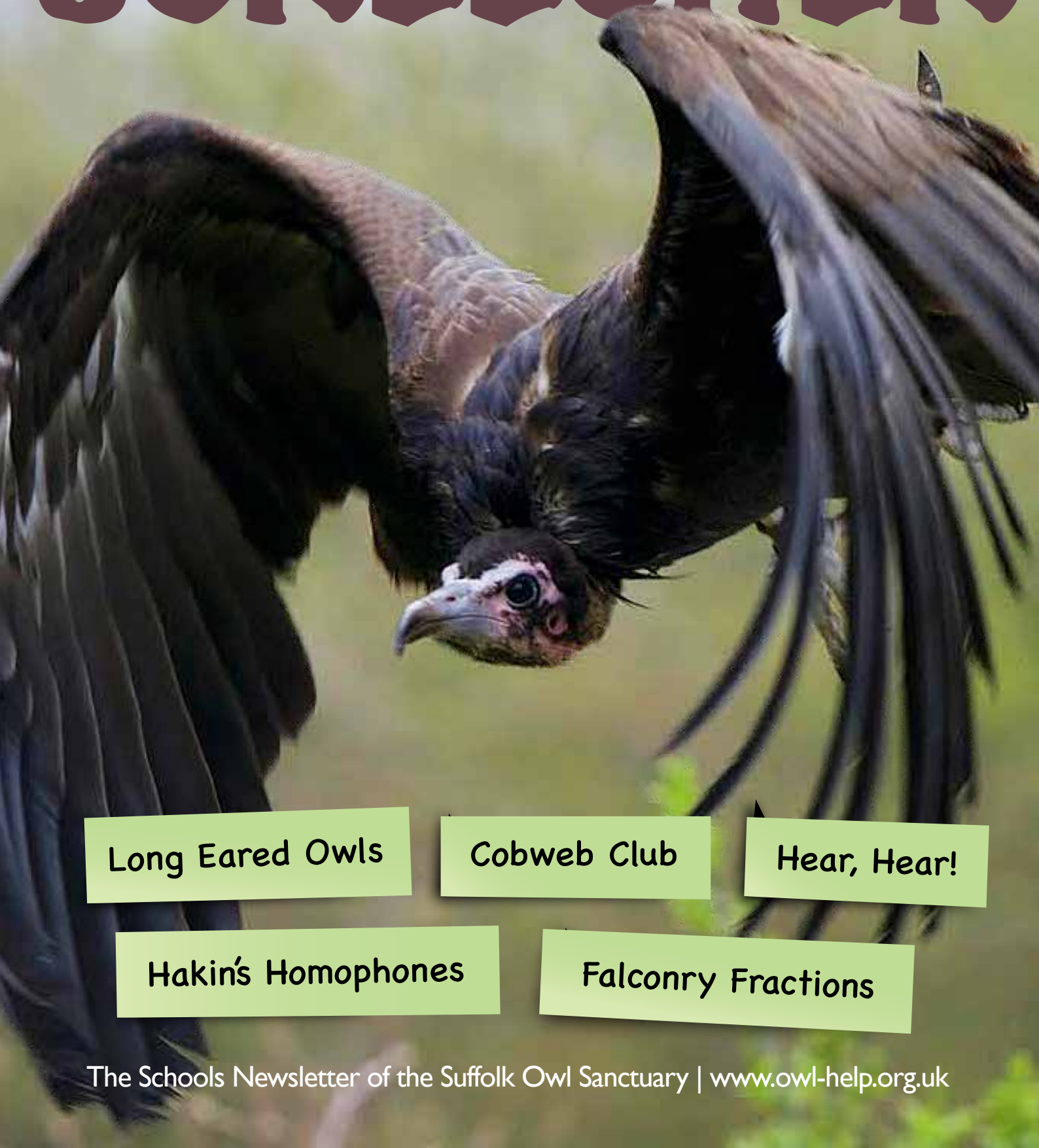


The STONNHAM SCREECHER

Autumn/Winter
2022



Long Eared Owls

Cobweb Club

Hear, Hear!

Hakin's Homophones

Falconry Fractions



Hello,
My name is Twiglet and I am a Long Eared Owl. I live at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary with my owl friends. You may be interested to know that...

....I am very shy and secretive, so you would be unlikely to see me in the wild, unless I am feeding babies.

During the winter I like to roost in a group with other Long Eared Owls. Up to 50 of us roosting together is not unusual.

I have a soft, distinctive call. You can make a sound like me by blowing across the top of an empty milk bottle!

We often re-use nests built by other birds...
...usually crows or magpies.

I am medium sized, slightly smaller and thinner than a tawny owl and I am also known as a cat owl!

I am able to change shape to blend into my surroundings! I can make myself tall and thin or short and round!

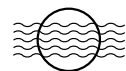
My fluffy ear tufts are nothing to do with hearing! They are thought to be used for communication between birds.

We often forage over large areas...
...up to 2kms. from our nest site is not unusual.

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, so please include your name and your parent's contact details.

Your next copy of The Stonham Screecher can be collected from the Sanctuary or you can download a digital copy when you register on line for FREE at www.owl-help.org.uk/cobweb-online

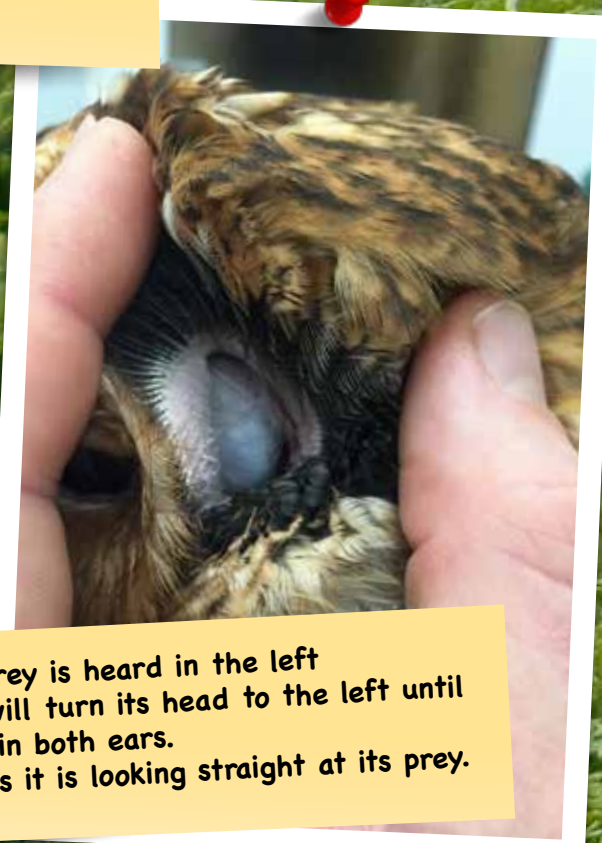


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Hear, Hear!

All owls have highly developed hearing, enabling them to hunt effectively during the day and night.

Their ears are located on the sides of their heads, behind the eyes and are covered by feathers.

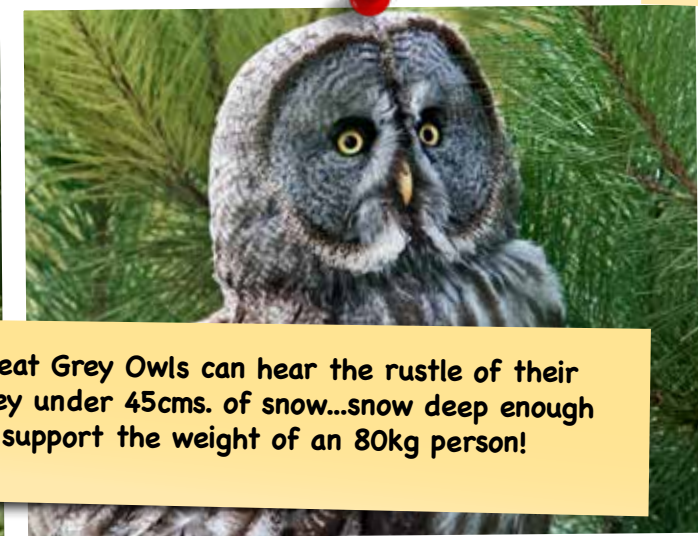


Some owls have **ASYMMETRICAL** ears. This means that one ear is higher in the head than the other. This enables the bird to pinpoint its prey accurately....

...if the rustle of prey is heard in the left ear first, the owl will turn its head to the left until the noise is heard in both ears. The owl then knows it is looking straight at its prey.

Owls can detect a time difference of 0.00003 seconds between sounds heard in the left and right ears!!

Owls can also tell whether prey is high up or low down by using their ears. If the right ear is higher than the left ear, then any sound heard in the right ear first must be coming from below.



Barn owls and others have a large facial disc of feathers. This funnels sound into the bird's ears and can amplify it tenfold.

Great Grey Owls can hear the rustle of their prey under 45cms. of snow...snow deep enough to support the weight of an 80kg person!

Owls can alter the shape of their facial disc using special facial muscles. This increases the surface area of the disc, improving hearing.

The area of the brain associated with hearing is called the **MEDULLA**. In owls the medulla has at least 95,000 neurons.....3 times as many as a crow!

HAKIN'S HOMOPHONES



Homophones are words which sound the same, but are spelt differently and have different meanings.

Can you circle the correct homophones to complete these statements about birds?

Hakin has done the first two for you!

Yesterday the Barn Owls ate/eight their food before the Tawnies.
Lincoln the Bald Eagle has VERY large feat/feet and talons.

Cecil the Spectacled Owl hunts by sitting quietly and then pouncing on his pray/prey.
A female Snowy Owl is always slightly larger than a male/mail.
A Bateleur Eagle has a very short tale/tail.
Bug and Beak the Tawny Owls have been/bean friends for many years.
Taiga and Taz are both Great/Grate Grey Owls.
Owls don't like to eat vegetables...they like meat/meet!

Falconry Fractions!

There are 20 birds in the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary flying team, consisting of owls, vultures and falcons.

- If $\frac{1}{4}$ of the birds are falcons, how many are not vultures or owls?
- If vultures also make up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the team, how many are owls?
- What fraction of the flying team do the owls and falcons represent together?
- If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the team are over 2 years of age, how many birds are aged 1 and 2?
- How many vultures are there in the team?
- If half the team were born at the sanctuary, how many were not?

