

GREAT HORNED OWL

BY KATE HOFMANN

Great horned owls are found in more places than any other large owl. They aren't easy to spot, though. For one thing, they're *nocturnal* (active at night). And they blend in so well during the day that you might never notice one asleep in a tree.

So how can you tell if great horned owls live in your neighborhood? With your ears! After dusk, listen for their hooting. It sounds something like *hoo h'ho* HOOOOO *hoo*.



Who-hoo-hoo knows this bird?



With broad wings and sharp talons, this hunter swoops down silently to snatch prey.

BITE-SIZED FACTS

- The great horned owl is named for its “horns.” They look like ears, but they’re actually just tufts of feathers.
- Great horned owls aren’t picky eaters. Mice (**right**), squirrels, rabbits, porcupines, frogs, snakes, scorpions, other birds, and even skunks are on the menu. (Good thing owls have hardly any sense of smell!)
- You can find great horned owls throughout North America and in lots of different habitats, from forests and deserts to fields and city parks.
- Great horned owls start nesting in January and February—much earlier in the year than most birds. 🦉

