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’hoo HOOOOO hoo.

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.