



photo by Maya Pendleton

# Water, Wings, and Wonder

This winter was phenomenal. As the snow continued to fall, children bundled up and donned snowshoes for winter field trips at the Ogden Nature Center. While record-breaking snow impacted some of our programming and challenged the staff, we all welcomed the moisture with mostly happiness and optimism.

This spring and summer we all witnessed the results. In our own mini superbloom, native grasses and wildflowers suddenly sprang to life with the first sign of spring warmth. Areas of the Nature Center that are typically dry once again held water and waterfowl, while our native pollinator plantings spread their leaves. The milkweed in the Monarch Waystation exploded and the number of native butterflies and bees on the property has been extraordinary!

This winter also recharged our groundwater. For the first time in years, Avocet Pond held water and we saw Mallards nesting on its banks! Baby Killdeer roamed around the newest pond on the property, which we have appropriately named “Killdeer Pond,” and Spotted Sandpipers even spent the spring here.

The resident beavers are keeping us busy while also keeping water in our waterways. These rambunctious rodents constructed a series of dams, slowing the movement of water through the nature preserve. This feeds our native cottonwoods and creates excellent nesting habitat for the families of Wood Ducks. Beavers transformed a parched field into a wet meadow, bringing White-faced Ibis, Gray Catbirds, and Yellow-breasted Chats to the Nature Center. Black-crowned Night Herons stalked around the banks of our full ponds, while dozens of baby Mallards paddled around and took refuge in the wet meadow.

Last year, Fresenius Medical Care, the Utah Department of Transportation, Ogden City, and the Dinsdale Water Company all worked together to bring the Ogden Nature Center its first “water delivery” in years. This new water lease will ensure that the Nature Center’s riparian corridor thrives, while also providing more resources for habitat restoration across the 152-acre preserve. It will also allow the Nature Center to conserve water elsewhere – as we are all cognizant of what water conservation means to the Great Salt Lake and our entire watershed.

Along with the help of hundreds of volunteers, habitat restoration interns, and Volunteens, our staff ecologist is hard at work making sure we have a healthy ecosystem here in this urban oasis. (Read more about these efforts inside!)

As late summer presses on, we look forward to even more projects on the horizon and new ways to connect with our community. As you visit, take a look at the work we’re doing to ensure the Ogden Nature Center is healthy and accessible to everyone. Our amazing educators are constantly busy, teaching and exploring the outdoors with the next generation of environmental stewards! You’ll always hear the excited voices of children as they meet our birds of prey or as they watch the grasshoppers bound off the trail as they walk.

We invite you to join us for any of our community programs, walk our trails, or join us for conservation work. We look forward to sharing our new and improved Dumke Picnic Grove space with you this fall!

We’re hard at work improving the Ogden Nature Center and continually nurturing this precious place where our community comes to learn and enjoy!

– by Jonathan Creel, Executive Director



Open Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-4, Closed Sunday  
966 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404  
[www.ogdennaturecenter.org](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org)  
801.621.7595

# Nature's Log

Newsletter of the Ogden Nature Center • Fall 2023

# Community Programs & Special Events

## WILD WEDNESDAYS

Wild Wednesdays will be held in person and outside, beginning at 3:45 pm each week.

All ages are welcome

Free for ONC members / or general admission rates of \$3 children and \$5 adults

Take part in a 20-minute program led by an Ogden Nature Center teacher/naturalist, and then explore the Nature Center on your own. Gates close at 5 pm. Dress for the weather! Please check in at the Visitor Center desk.

### September Wild Wednesdays

6th – Crazy and Curious Corvids  
13th – Nature Friends  
20th – Salmon Spawn  
27th – Changing Colors



### October Wild Wednesdays

4th – Poisonous and Venomous  
11th – Spiders and Arachnids  
18th – Batty about Bats  
25th – Owl Tales

### November Wild Wednesdays

1st – American Bison  
8th – Our National Symbol  
15th – Oh Deer  
22nd – Turkey Tails  
29th – Feather Fun



### December Wild Wednesdays

6th – Plants and Animals Prepare for Winter  
13th – Tracks and Scat  
20th – Winter Solstice

## HOMESCHOOL NATURALISTS

### Fall 2023 Semester – Biomes & Habitats

September 13th, 27th, October 11th, 25th,  
November 8th, 22nd, December 6th, 20th, from 1 - 3 pm  
\$180 per child for the 8-class series for ONC members  
\$200 per child for the 8-class series for non-members  
Ages 7-12

Students will learn about the different biomes and habitats we have around the planet including those found in Utah. We will cover grasslands/savannah, oceans, wetlands, mountains, forests, deserts, and tundra. Students register for the entire 8-class series. Due to high demand and limited space, we cannot offer sibling discounts. Registration deadline is 5 pm, September 5th. Register at [www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/homeschool-naturalists](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/homeschool-naturalists)

## KNEEHIGH NATURALISTS

### Leaves and Trees

Choose a date and time:

- September 19th at 10 am or 1 pm
- September 20th at 10 am
- October 17th at 10 am or 1 pm
- October 18th at 10 am

Ages 3-5

\$10/ONC members and \$12/non-members

\$8/child for groups of 5 or more

Join us for this year's theme of seasons. Explore trees in the fall and learn what they do for both humans and animals. Learn the difference between evergreen trees (coniferous) and trees that lose their leaves (deciduous).

Pre-registration required. Admission includes a child and adult pair. To register, go to [www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/preschool-programs](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/preschool-programs)



### Plants and Animals Prepare for Winter

Choose a date and time:

- November 21st at 10 am or 1 pm
- November 22nd at 10 am
- December 19th at 10 am or 1 pm
- December 20th at 10 am

Ages 3-5

\$10/ONC members and \$12/non-members

\$8/child for groups of 5 or more

Migrate through nature in autumn and find out how our feathered friends generate energy during the cold winter months. Visit the bear den and get a feel for hibernation. Pre-registration required. Admission includes a child and adult pair. To register, go to [www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/preschoolprograms](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/preschoolprograms)

## SEPTEMBER

### Owls & Morning Yoga offered by the Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit

Wednesday, September 6th from 9 - 10:30 am  
\$10

Anxiety is for the birds! And, it turns out, birds—and yoga—are good for our anxiety! Enjoy a rejuvenating morning of yoga & owls in the Ogden Nature Center's backyard glen. Spend 40 minutes engaged in your yoga practice with Melanie Webb, followed by a 15-20 minute owl presentation led by Ogden Nature Center's animal handler, Heidi Christensen. Learn how far humans can turn their heads and how far owls can turn theirs! Stretch your wings and learn about the wingspan of owls! How strong is your grip vs. that of an owl's talons? After yoga and owls, guests are invited to explore the Ogden Nature Center - including 1.5 miles of walking trails, bird blinds, a birds of prey exhibit, and a 10% discount in The Nest Gift Shop. Attendees should bring their own mats, sunscreen, and water. Please register at

[summit.com](http://summit.com) under "activities". Get a 20% discount for the Outdoor Recreation Summit with promo code "OgdenNatureCenter20".

### 38th Annual Wildwoods BASH Dinner & Auction

Friday, September 8, 5 pm

Enjoy late summer in the Nature Center's beautiful backyard and join your flock of friends who share and support the Ogden Nature Center. We're serving up a gourmet picnic dinner, live music by Standards & Substandards and an online and live auction. New this year... Our nature-inspired auction will be available for online bidding beginning September 5th at 12 noon through September 8th at 7 pm. Space is limited. Reserve your tickets at [www.ogdennaturecenter.org/events](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/events).

### Space Camp

Saturday, September 30th from 3 - 10 pm

Ages 10 - 12

\$50 per ONC member camper / \$55 per nonmember camper  
Discover the incredible worlds lurking in our galaxy with this afternoon/evening camp dedicated to outer space! Build your own "rover" to survive a Mars drop test, learn about the planets in our solar system, and finish the night with a campfire dinner and stargazing while hearing stories about the constellations far above us. Please register by September 23rd at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

### Volunteer Russian Olive Destruction Day

Saturday, September 16th, 9 am

Do you love the challenge of using a saw to hunt down some thorny plants? Then grab your work gloves and come help us cut down some smaller invasive Russian Olive trees on the property. We will be meeting for about two hours of work, with snacks to follow at 11. Pre-registration is required by September 10th by calling 801-621-7595 or emailing [volunteer@ogdennaturecenter.org](mailto:volunteer@ogdennaturecenter.org).

### Campfire Date Night

Friday, September 22nd at 7:30 pm

For ages 21+

\$55 per couple non-members / \$50 for ONC members  
Bring your favorite person to snuggle with under the stars. A fun evening complete with pudgy pie dinners, s'mores, an evening nature walk, and to top it off... stargazing. Please register by September 16th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



### Mystery Solvers at the Ogden Nature Center

Saturday, September 23rd, runs all day, 10 am – 4 pm

All ages

\$5 ONC members / \$8 non-members

Solve riddles and puzzles to collect stamps hidden around the Center. Use these to solve one final mystery and obtain a small reward at the Visitor Center. Please register by September 17th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

## OCTOBER

### Building Fairy/Gnome Houses

Saturday, October 14th, 10 am

All ages welcome

\$20 ONC members / \$25 non-members

Listen to some of the many fairytales and myths about miniature creatures while decorating a tiny home for your garden. Craft supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any additional materials. Please register by October 7th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



### Plant Dyed Bandanas

Saturday, October 21st, 10 am

Ages 16+

\$30 ONC members / \$35 non-members

Learn about incredible natural dyes by using hammered plants to create your own bandana design. Flowers, fabric markers, and cotton bandanas will be provided, but guests are welcome to bring additional materials if desired. Please register by October 14th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

### Creatures of the Night

October 27th and 28th from 5 - 8:30 pm

(last admission at 7:45pm)

All ages

\$7 ONC members / \$10 non-members / Free for ages 2 and under

No pre-registration required, just pay at the door

Join us for a non-spooky Halloween adventure. Creatures of the Night is packed with trailside adventures including games, campfire stories, live owl and snake presentations, crafts, a spider web crawl and a crepuscular creep. Some fun food and drinks will be available for purchase. Costumes are welcome and flashlights are encouraged. Dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Event will be held rain or shine. For more information go to [www.ogdennaturecenter.org](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org).



## NOVEMBER

### Bounding with Bunnies

Friday, November 3rd at 3 pm

All ages welcome, geared towards children 4-

\$5 ONC members / \$8 non-members

Jackrabbits, cottontails, and hares, oh my! Have you ever wondered how far a bunny can actually jump? Why are their noses always wiggling? What's the difference between your pet bunny and wild bunnies? In this workshop you'll learn about rabbits and their cousins pikas, hares, and cottontails and make a fun bunny craft. Please register at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



### Fall Trail Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, November 11th, 9 am - 4 pm

All ages welcome

\$1 per sheet / Free admission for ONC members, non-members

will need to pay daily admission fee of \$5 adults and \$3 children

No registration necessary

Pick up a sheet at the Visitor Center front desk and take part in our self-guided scavenger hunt along the trails.



### Cup Hop

For a \$20 donation you will receive a cute and collectible Ogden Nature Center **ladybug mug**, filled with a specialty coffee, tea or cocoa at the locations listed below.

We want to give back to the coffee shops who support the Ogden Nature Center year after year! A portion of your donation will go to the Ogden Nature Center, and a portion to the coffee shops! In compliance with health department guidelines, we are allowed to fill mugs once at the shop where purchased. The mugs will be available on these dates and at these locations only, while they last!

Nov. 13-18 Grounds for Coffee / 3005 Harrison Blvd.

Nov. 20-25 Kaffe Mercantile / 1221 26th Street

Nov. 27 - Dec 2 Daily Rise / 2865 Washington Blvd.

Dec. 4-9 Grounds for Coffee / 1111 Historic 25th Street

Dec. 11-16 Coffee Links / 287 Park Ave.

For more information contact the Ogden Nature Center at 801-621-7595.

### Annual Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 15th, 5 pm social / 5:30 pm meeting

Members and the general public are invited to join us for our annual Board Meeting. Please convene in the L.S. Peery Education Bldg.

### Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 28th

Giving Tuesday is a global movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. Join like-minded people and give as generously as your means permit to the causes that matter the most to you.

Visit [www.ogdennaturecenter.org](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org) on November 28th to learn more.

## DECEMBER

### MEMBERS ONLY!

#### Holiday Swags, Sale & Social

Thursday, November 30th from 6 - 8 pm

This year Ogden Nature Center **members** will have first chance to purchase fresh evergreen swags and shop in The Nest Gift Shop while enjoying some festive holiday drinks & nosh. Members will also get first pick at holiday items including Mr. Bird Seed gifts, Cody Foster specialty ornaments, Crane Creek cards, Folkmanis Puppets and much more!



### The Nest Holiday Open House & Local Artisan Fair

Friday, December 1, 9 am - 5 pm

& Saturday, December 2, 9 am - 4 pm

Free admission for all!

Come find new treasures and gifts during two full days of holiday shopping & festivities! We are hosting local artisans, a yummy bake sale prepared by our board of directors, a make and take nature craft, complimentary gift wrapping, and hot drinks. The Nest Gift Shop features nature related books, stationary, toys, games, art, birdfeeders, artisan jewelry, and clothing.



### Make Your Own Holiday Swag Workshop

Saturday, December 9th at 10 am

Ages 16+

\$55 ONC members / \$65 non-members.

We'll provide greenery, ribbon, and baubles and tools, and help you make the perfect holiday door decoration. Feel free to bring any special ribbon or decor of your own. Please register by December 2nd at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>

### Romping with Rabbits

Saturday, December 15th at 4 pm

Ages 9 and up

\$5 ONC members / \$8 non-members

Jackrabbits, cottontails, and hares, oh my! Have you ever wondered how far a bunny can actually jump? Why are their noses always wiggling? What's the difference between your pet bunny and wild bunnies? In this workshop you'll learn about rabbits and their cousins pikas, hares, and cottontails and make a fun bunny craft. Please register by November 25th <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



### Winter Solstice

Saturday, December 16th at 11 am

All Ages

\$5 ONC Members / \$8 non-members

Join an ONC naturalist to learn about the changes happening as nature transitions into winter. Create pinecone feeders to help our feathered friends survive the winter, and finish with a self-guided scavenger hunt. Please register by December 9th at <https://www.ogdennaturecenter.org/education/community-programs>



## HOLIDAY BREAK

The Ogden Nature Center and The Nest Gift Shop will be closed Sunday, December 24th through Monday, January 1st for a short winter's nap/break! We will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. We wish everyone a happy and nature-filled holiday season.





## Bat Basics

Bats are essential in a healthy ecosystems. These winged mammals eat almost half their body weight in insects every night! Not only do they protect crops, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and gardens from harmful insects, they also serve as a food source for other nocturnal predators like owls. North American bat populations are in decline due to an invasive fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, causing the more commonly known “white-nose syndrome.” The fungus disrupts hibernation and is highly deadly to bats, leading to starvation and abnormal functions. Three bat species in eastern North America have already lost up to 90% of their populations. As the disease continues to spread across the continent, we must step in and help protect these crucial bat populations.

In collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat), the Ogden Nature Center (ONC) started monitoring bats last fall using bioacoustics. Insect-eating bats use echolocation to detect prey in the dark and each species gives off a signature call which we attempt to record using acoustic detectors. These recordings can be analyzed to determine which bat species are present within the area, which habitats are being used, and can even be used to track migration and movement patterns. Land managers can use this data to inform conservation efforts that will help protect bat populations worldwide. We will use acoustic detectors to survey multiple high-priority NABat “cells” in Northern Utah, taking data from our properties, including Ogden Nature Center North, to determine bat presence and habitat usage. Preliminary recordings have detected several species of bats including the Big Brown Bat, the Brazilian Free-tail Bat, and several *Myotis* species. Stay tuned for the results of our summer survey efforts!



Big Brown Bat  
photo by  
Maya Pendleton

## Water Quality Projects

As you read earlier, Ogden Nature Center (ONC) has seen an increase in water this year due to increased precipitation through winter and incoming water shares from the Ogden River. Water is the lifeblood of the Nature Center and is essential for habitats to remain healthy for wildlife. Incoming water recharges groundwater and wetlands, keeps plants alive and healthy, and keeps water running through the riparian corridor. However, the incoming water also brings with it runoff, debris and litter from surrounding development and highways. To keep our waterways healthy and to increase both water quality and quantity, we’ve started multiple projects aimed at water monitoring, restoration, and beaver management.

The Nature Center is a long-time participant in the Utah Water Watch Program, a citizen science effort run by Utah State University Extension. The program trains citizens interested in water conservation on methods to test local water bodies and provides the necessary equipment. Different parameters are tested such as temperature, pH, turbidity, and even *E. coli* presence. Collected data is submitted to a public database and can be used to compare sites across time. We test multiple wetlands and both streams monthly to monitor for changes in water quality and to determine if any action is needed.

The Nature Center was recently awarded a grant from the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative Program to restore and enhance streams. This grant is part of a large-scale restoration project within the Weber River watershed that crosses multiple county lines and includes collaborators from many conservation organizations. The grant will allow us to build and install several Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) to help slow and store water in key areas. BDAs mimic the effect that beavers have on the landscape and are widely used to improve water quality, increase water availability on the landscape, increase habitat resilience, and create a more dynamic stream structure. By using these structures, we can reduce the effects of long-term drought on ONC waterways, push water into the surrounding areas to provide better habitat for wildlife, provide education, and serve as an example for similar projects.

In addition to installing BDAs, we continue to work towards beaver co-existence on the property. Although beavers can prove troublesome in certain situations, their overall benefit on the landscape, particularly in an arid setting, makes them a valuable asset to the ecosystem. Multiple beavers use ONC waterways for food and shelter and have created lodges and dams in managed areas. Beavers have improved the quality of ONC streams and wetlands, have created habitat for a suite of wildlife species including waterfowl, mule deer, songbirds, amphibians, and dragonflies. Their dams help to slow water and collect sediment and nutrients, both of which can degrade water quality. The dams also collect trash which is then removed by volunteers, improving water for ONC, downstream users, and ultimately the Weber River.



## Paul Burnett Receives Hearts and Hands Award

Paul Burnett has been volunteering with the Ogden Nature Center since 2008, and has accumulated over 250 hours of service! As a long-time member of our board, past board chair, and chair of the land management committee, Paul has been vital in helping to shape the preserve by creating conservation-based goals to restore native habitats that benefit wildlife.

Humans have heavily impacted what is today Ogden Nature Center's property throughout its history, and trying to restore it to pre-industry days is no easy task! Through countless invasive species, wily beavers, droughts, floods, and everything else that could happen on this land, Paul has steered decisions and helped address issues in an ever-changing climate. Paul helped secure a vital invasive species management grant, updated our land management plan, and created nuisance wildlife policies. Paul was a leader in establishing an ecologist position on our staff team.

Paul is a thoughtful and intentional person who leads in a calm, humble manner. He shows care in his actions and how they affect those around him. We are grateful to have him as a board member, advisor, volunteer, and friend. We truly appreciate the impact Paul has, and continues, to make. Please join us in congratulating and thanking him!

## Russian Olive Destruction Day

Do you love the challenge of using a saw to hunt down some thorny plants? On September 16th, we will be gathering a group of volunteers to cut down small invasive Russian Olive trees on the property. We will meet at 9 am for about two hours of work, with snacks to follow at 11. Pre-registration is required by September 10th.

## Volunteers Needed for Creatures of the Night

Creatures of the Night, will be held on Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th. We need volunteer help from 5 - 9 pm on each day. There are opportunities to volunteer with parking, games, activities, crafts, refreshments and more! Please dress for outdoor weather.

To volunteer, please call 801-621-7595 or email [volunteer@ogdennaturecenter.org](mailto:volunteer@ogdennaturecenter.org).

## Our 2023 Volunteers!

This year our Volunteers focused on "ologies", choosing on a different "study of" each week. One week we had lessons in entomology (the study of insects), where we released biocontrol insects to help control invasive species populations. Another week we focused on ornithology and got to see the Nature Center's bird banding program in action. We also looked into microbiology, geology, hydrology, and mammalogy, to name a few others. The teens helped with tasks like cleaning up an old irrigation zone on the property, watering native plants, creating an Earth Day activity, and so much more! Thank you to the teens and their families for recognizing the importance of engaging with nature and our community, volunteering your time and skills, and managing to learn and have fun along the way!

**2023 Volunteers:** Bella Chapman, Charlotte Barnett Shirley, Cooper Burnett, Derly de La Pena, Dylan Riley, Gerard Hernandez, Jacob Harris, Joseph Gesler, Kaitley Jones, Kyra Butte, Logan Kilcrease, Lola Chapman, Madi White (not pictured), Maggie Erickson, Max Luke, Rachel Elizabeth Simpson, Ryan Mark, Scarlett Solomon, Shaylor Devlin, Tosh Turner



photo by Parker Balla

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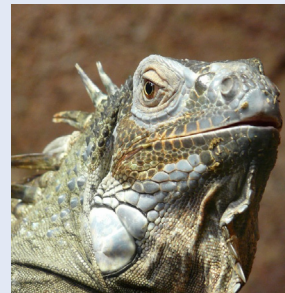
**Meet Education Director Isa Del Bello**

Isa has been with Ogden Nature Center since April, filling the important roll of Education Director. Hailing from Brooklyn and New Mexico, she holds a BA in elementary education and an MA in developmental psychology and social epidemiology. She has over 19 years of informal and formal education experience and has been leading and building environmental education teams and spaces for the past 10 years.



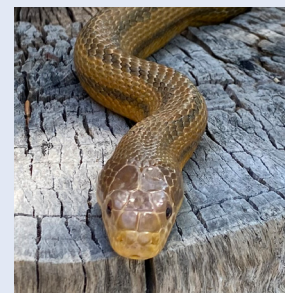
**Meet Teacher Naturalist Annie Rollins**

Annie graduated from Weber State University with a degree in Zoology and after serving a year as the Environmental Education/Americorps intern with the Ogden Nature Center in 2022, she joined the staff full time in 2023. Her position as a Teacher Naturalist perfectly combines her love of education and working with children, with her love of the outdoors. She is passionate about animals, so she is also happy to be surrounded by the Ogden Nature Centers resident birds and education animals.



**Adopt an Animal**

Would you like to help sponsor one of the Ogden Nature Center's resident animal ambassadors? Adoption fees help pay for food, medications, vet visits, and everyday care of these precious animals who help teach Northern Utahns about the various species that call Utah home.



Adopters receive a photo collage of their animal, a fact sheet, an adoption certificate, a private visit with their adopted animal, and a sign near the animal's home, naming them as their sponsor.

Igora the Green Iguana is \$200 per year and Remy the Yellow Rat Snake is \$100 per year. If you are interested in adopting one of these critters, please call 801-621-7595 or send an email to Heidi at [hchristensen@ogdennaturecenter.org](mailto:hchristensen@ogdennaturecenter.org).

# Animal Ambassador

A juvenile Great-horned Owl has joined the Ogden Nature Center as our newest animal ambassador. He was hatched in Idaho in 2022, but at two months old he fell from a tree and broke a wing, damaging tendons, which rendered him flightless. He was taken to Utah's Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and later transferred to the Ogden Nature Center, where volunteer Michelle Groncki trained him behind the scenes for the past several months. He is now living in the mewes at the Ogden Nature Center and will be part of our outreach/education team.

## Amazing Facts About Great-horned Owls

- **Females are Larger than Males**

Scientists think this may have to do with the roles of male and female Great-horned Owls. Females will sit on the nest to incubate the eggs, so their larger size may help them store more food and go longer without eating. The male's smaller size may help them hunt in narrow forest openings.

- **Very Territorial**

Great-horned Owls are known to be very territorial, defending anywhere from .1 to 1 square mile of habitat as their own. They will fight with other owls to keep their space.

- **Light Weight**

The average Great-horned Owl has a 4-foot wingspan and only weighs 5 pounds! Much of their body mass is in feathers, which are incredibly light.

- **No Chewing Allowed**

Great-horned Owls don't chew their food. In fact, they normally swallow their prey whole! This means they have to process every part of their prey, including the bones. Whatever the owl's stomach doesn't digest goes to another organ called the gizzard. Here, the bones and fur form a pellet, which is later upchucked by the owl.

- **Fantastic Feathers**

A Great-horned Owl's feathers have many helpful features! They help insulate even on the coldest winter nights, as these owls do not migrate or hibernate. Their patterning helps the Great-horned Owl camouflage when scanning for prey. Their feathers also have a soft, messy edge that helps the owl fly silently through the night.



photo by Brandi Bosworth



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