

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Found from the Arctic tundra to the tropical rainforest, from the desert to suburban backyards, the Great Horned Owl is one of the most widespread and common owls in North America.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

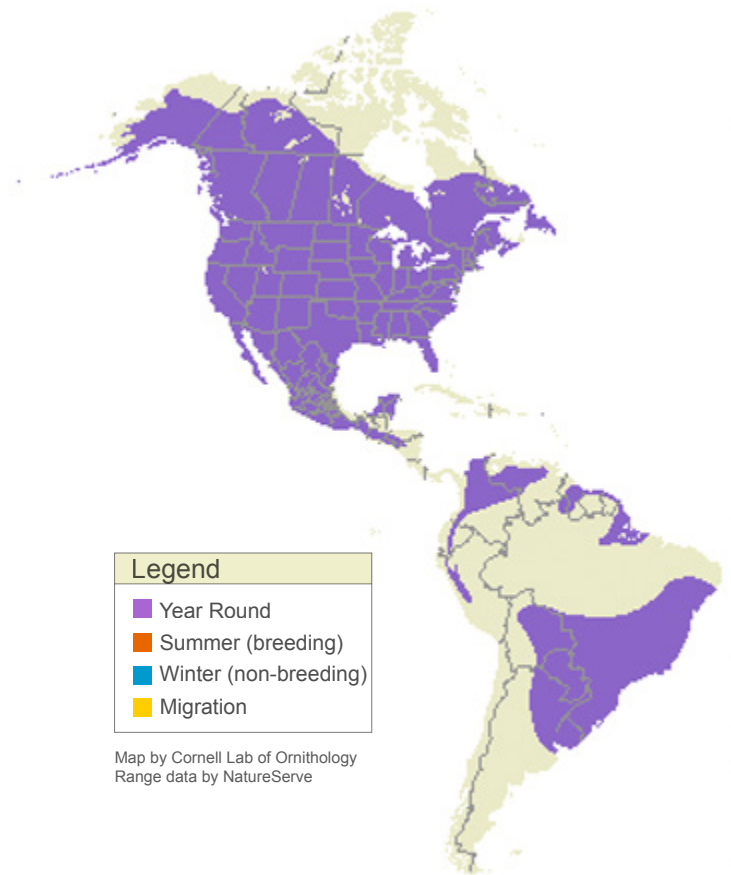
- Large owl.
- Prominent ear tufts widely spaced on the head.

Juvenile Description

Immature like adult. Fledges from nest while still downy around the head and without noticeable ear tufts.

Cool Facts

- The Great Horned Owl is the only animal that regularly eats skunks!
- The Great Horned Owl will take large prey, even other raptorial birds. It regularly kills and eats other owls, and is an important predator on nestling Ospreys. The reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons has been hampered in some areas by owls killing both adult and nestling falcons.



Legend	
■	Year Round
■	Summer (breeding)
■	Winter (non-breeding)
■	Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe