



### Owls - Did You Know...

A group of owls is called a parliament. The young are called owlets. They are nocturnal and mostly solitary. All owls are predators and have few enemies except, perhaps, other owls.

They eat birds, reptiles, rodents, frogs and small mammals. Fishing owls eat fish and crabs.

Smaller owls eat moths and insects. The Verreaux's Eagle Owl is capable of seizing an adult vervet monkey or a small warthog. Female owls are often larger than males.

They have powerful talons that help catch and kill prey. The wings are specially adapted to enable silent flight, thus increasing hunting skill.

They have fourteen neck vertebrae (not the usual seven like other birds) which enable them to twist their necks 270 degrees without moving their shoulders. The eyes are immobile therefore they only have forward vision. The eyes are not spherical but more tubular shaped, are large and positioned on the front of their heads, giving them binocular and excellent nocturnal vision. Some owls have crooked ears - one higher up and one further forward enabling them to pinpoint prey more accurately. Ear-like tufts are not in fact ears, but plumage adornments.

Owls cannot digest bones, fur, feathers or teeth. These collect in part of the stomach called the gizzard and are regurgitated in the form of a pellet.

Owls which can be spotted in Marloth Park are the Barn owl, White-faced, Scops, Pearl-spotted, Wood, Barred, Spotted Eagle and the Verreaux's.

### Uile - Het U gewet ...

'n Groep uile word 'n parlement genoem. Die jongetjies word uiltjies genoem. Hulle is nagtelik en meestal alleen. Alle uile is roofvoëls en hulle het min vyande behalwe, miskien ander uile.

Hulle eet voëls, reptiele, knaagdiere, paddas en klein soogdiere. Uile wat visvang eet vis en krappe.

Kleiner uile eet motte en insekte. Die Reuse Ooruil is instaat om 'n volwasse blouapie of 'n klein vlakvark te gryp. Die wyfies is dikwels groter as die mannetjies.

Hulle het kragtige kloue wat help om prooi te vang en dood te maak. Die vlerke is spesiaal aangepas vir geruislose vlug, wat dan jag vaardigheid verbeter.

Hulle besit 14 nekwerwels (ander voëls het gewoonlik net sewe). Dit stel hulle in staat om hulle nekke 270 grade te draai sonder om die skouers te beweeg. Die oë is onbeweeglik en dit veroorsaak dat hulle net vorentoe kan kyk. Die oë is nie sferies nie maar meer buisvormig, is groot en voor op die kop. Dit gee hulle binokulêre en uitstekende nagtelike visie. Party uile se ore is nie gelyk nie – een hoër op en een verder na voor. Dit stel hulle instaat om prooi meer akkuraat op te spoor. Klossies wat soos ore lyk is nie ore nie, maar wel veer versierings.

Uile kan nie bene, vel, vere of tande verteer nie. Hierdie versamel in 'n gedeelte van die maag wat 'n krop genoem word. Dit word uitgespoeg in die vorm van 'n klont.

Uile wat in Marloth Park gesien kan word is die Nonnetjie-uil, Witwanguil, Skopsuil, Dwerguiltjie, Bosuil, Gebande Uil, Gevlekte Ooruil en die Reuse Ooruil.