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ISSUE 03 | NOVEMBER 2018

OWLDERING AROUND MAGAZINE

Free digital magazine of Enviromental Education

English edition

OWLS ARE NOT EVIL

Prejudice and urban legends continue to cause the death of owls in many countries around the world.

IN THIS ISSUE

INTERVIEW WITH
VÍCTOR BASÍLIO

THE YEAR OF THE BARN OWL

BATS: FAMOUS AND FEARFUL

SAY NO TO POISON

I WANT TO HAVE AN OWL,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ISSUE 03 | NOVEMBER 2018

OLWDERING AROUND MAGAZINE

Revista Corujando por aí



Free digital magazine

Download in

www.diariodefalcoaria.com

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POR AÍ FOR KIDS

Editorial

Love is necessary, environment education is also necessary



The smile of a child, the eyes that shine and the joy that they emanate ... it is difficult to describe how children feel when they get close to a wild animal for the first time, to be able to touch it very carefully, to make a dream come true. Children ask a lot about that animal, they want to know the species, what they eat, where they live, how old they are. Many questions are asked while their little eyes remain admiring that being that now begins to be truly admired and loved. If you pay close attention you get to perceive a different energy there, it is the energy of empathy that is born and begins to intensify. Nothing in the world is stronger than love and empathy, it is for these two forces that we struggle daily against any obstacle in our lives, this is the reason we live.

The creation of empathy can be a slow process, but in children it happens very fast, some offer a bit of resistance because of fear and prejudice, but seeing the relationship between the animal and its tutor, seeing their change of affection and looks of understanding, they give up of fear.



***“We only love what we know, and we only protect what we love”.
Kátia Boroni***

I have been repeating this sentence for many years, since I specialized in journalism and I started my volunteer work in environmental education, because I really believe in it. It is impossible to have a wild animal, whatever the species, and not worry about the reality and survival of this species in the wild, because there is no such thing as loving one and belittling the other. As soon as a being of these comes to your care, you become its eternal defender, and do what you can to ensure that this species survives the ramblings of the human race.

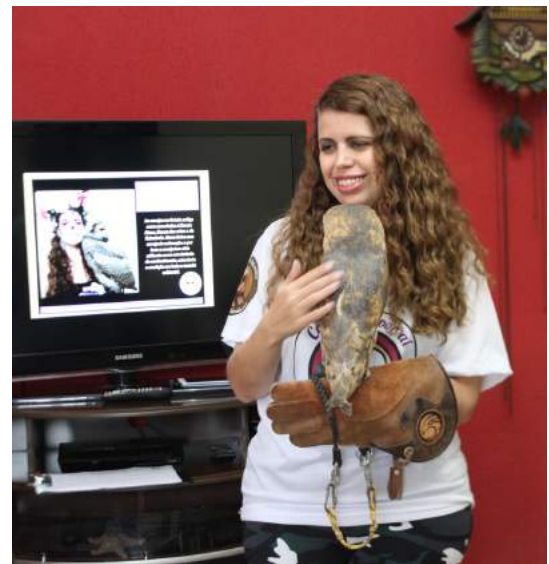
I remember that when Sophia arrived I was so passionate about this owl, two years of study and preparation for that magical moment, to create a bond with such an intelligent and strong-tempered animal, so many personal sacrifices and a complete change of routine and vision of the world. The contact with any animal transforms you, but a wild animal manages to elevate this transformation, because it reconnects us with nature, which is today increasingly away from us as we live in a stone jungle.

We are facing difficult days, that we hope with great faith that they are coming to an end. It is with great hope that we look forward to next year and with it a great change in laws and incentives. What I and all the friends of environmental education want is to be able to continue sharing love along with knowledge, is to be able to share at least a little of our time to take our hawks, owls, snakes, etc to those who would never have this opportunity. It is to show that all species deserve love and protection, and that living with them daily intensifies the best part of us. That is why we will always wait for better days to arrive, with the certainty that the universe will always help those who truly want to help building a better world, for ourselves and for nature.

And I end here with the words of who always advised us to be like a phoenix, reborn from the ashes:

"Happiness can be found even in the most difficult times, if you remember to turn on the light." Alvo Dumbledore

Kátia Boroni





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Do you want to know more about
owls, hawks and other wild
animals? So follow the page
Corujando por aí on social media!

*In the picture the owl Verbena, from the species
Great horned owl (Bubo virginianus), from
Kátia Boroni. Photo: Kátia Boroni.*



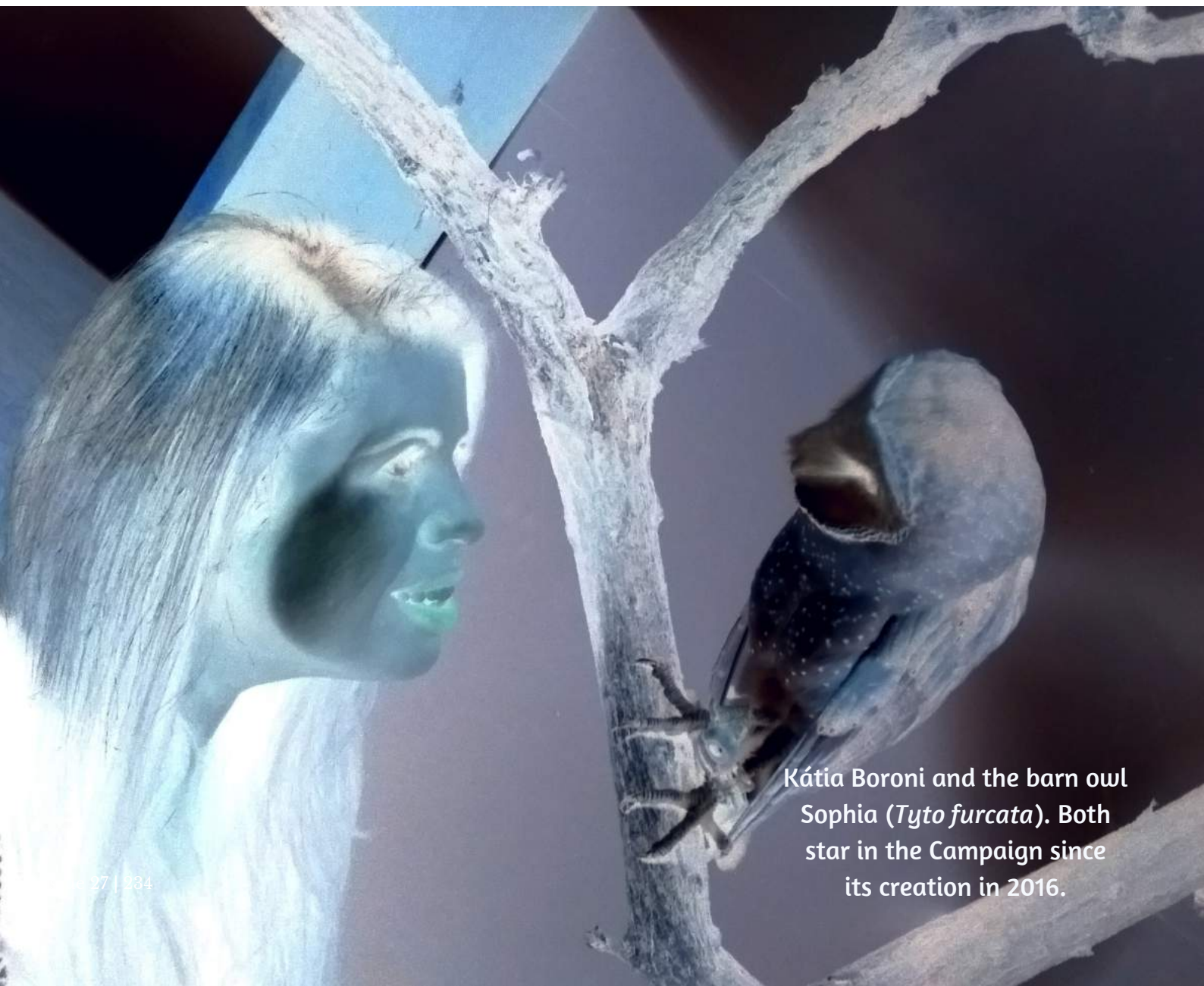
OWLS ARE NOT EVIL

The prejudice against owls, which still exists in several parts of the world, motivated the creation of the Campaign in 2016 "Owls are not evil, don't confuse fantasy with reality".

Once again, we take advantage of Proximity to Halloween and the Day of the dead to alert everyone about the importance of ending the prejudice against owls.

Unfortunately, in Brazil and in several countries around the world, owls are still seen by some as carriers of bad omen, witches, and even as bearers of death.

The barn owl (*Tyto alba / furcata*) is the species of owl most affected by legends and popular beliefs, due to its sound that recalls a sharp cry. An ancient urban legend in the northeast of Brazil called "Legend of the Suindara" says that when a white-faced owl screams on the roof of a house, an inhabitant dies. Due to this urban legend many owls are killed until today. Ending this prejudice is one of the main objectives of the project Corujando por aí (Owldering around).



Kátia Boroni and the barn owl Sophia (*Tyto furcata*). Both star in the Campaign since its creation in 2016.



The popular name of the barn owl "rasga mortalha" in Portuguese comes from its vocalization similar to a shrill scream.



The other species of owls that do not emit "screams" are also at risk, due to urban legends and prejudice.

THE BIRD OF THE YEAR 2018



Photo: Kátia Boroni

The Barn owl

Adaptation of the text "20 things that (maybe) you did not know about the Bird of the Year, the barn owl " from SEO / BirdLife



The barn owl (*Tyto alba*) is the 2018 Bird of the Year.

It was chosen by participants

in the popular vote organized by SEO / BirdLife - Spain. During 2018, the environmental NGO will carry out actions of awareness and conservation about this species that, in the last decade, lost 13% of its specimens. In some parts of the peninsula (Spain), in fact, the fall comes to 50%. Although known among the public, today the bird of the year still maintains secrets and curiosities. These are 22 things that (maybe) you did not know about it.

1. How big is it? Between 32 and 40 centimeters in height. More or less what a newspaper measures in Spain

2. How much does it weight? About half a pound, between 430 and 620 grams. (Note: In Brazil the barn owls are of the subspecies *Tyto furcata*, and are smaller than the European *Tyto alba*. A barn owl in Brazil hardly exceeds 500 grams). In the US there are the *Tyto furcata*, known also as American barn owl, and is also bigger than the Brazilian one.

3. Where can you see it? The barn owl covers most of the world. It is only missing in very cold regions (for example, the Arctic) and in the desert or in excessively arid climate. It is also not seen on some Pacific islands, in most of Indonesia or in the northern Himalayas. It is present in Europe, except in Scandinavia and Iceland. In fact, it is the only species of the family Tytonidae present in Europe.

4. Are all barn owls the same?

Barn owls make up a family of birds, the *Tytonidae*, with few species (about 16). Of all the species, the most abundant is the barn owl or *Tyto alba*, but attention, there are described 46 subspecies of *Tyto alba*, and some are candidates to become species because they have significant differences

5. How many types of barn owls are there in Spain?

Of course, the most widespread subspecies in Spain is *Tyto alba*, the barn owl (known in Brazil as Suindara), present throughout the peninsula, in the Balearic Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, and in the western of Canary Islands. The subspecies *gracilirostris* - the owl majorera - is present in Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and Alegranza. Finally you can see the *guttata* subspecies, darker, which generally behaves like wintering and comes from the east and center of Europe.

6. Are all owls from the same family?

There are several words in Spanish to name owls, and they can cause confusion even among native speakers: **búhos**, **lechuzas**, **mochuelos**, **autillos**, **cárabos**. All the owls belong to the same order of birds, the **Strigiformes** or nocturnal birds of prey. This order is divided into two families, the *tytonidae* (barn owls) and the *Strigidae*, which encompasses the rest of the species. So the **búhos** and **lechuzas** are from different families, in Portuguese and in English we use only one word for these birds: *corujas* in Portuguese and *owls* in English.



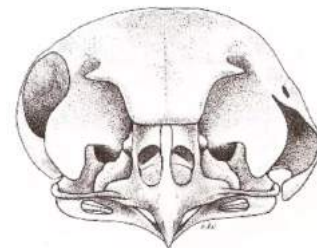
In the movie Harry Potter they used owls of several species, among them the barn owl. Harry Potter's owl, Hedwig, is a snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*).

7. How do barn owls differ from others?

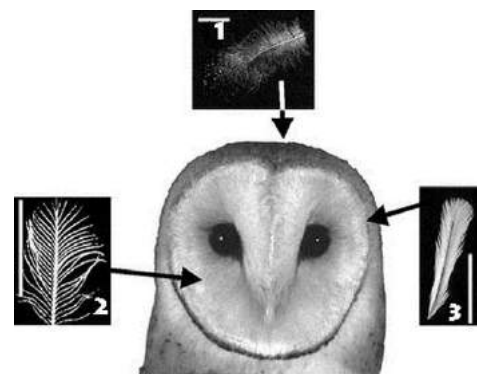
It depends on the species. If we talk about the Eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), the most common in the peninsula (Spain), the fundamental differences are in the eyes - yellow in the case of the eagle owl, and black in the case of the barn owl - since the eagle-owl is much larger than the barn owls. The eagle owl does not have a facial disc so marked and has feathers on both sides of the head (called tufts). By the way, even if it looks like, these feathers are not ears.

8. How does a barn owl hear?

Owls are known for their prodigious sense of hearing, and possess a characteristic element called **facial disc**. In addition to performing the typical functions of a face, the disc acts as a sort of satellite dish that captures and distributes the sound to its two ears, conveniently hidden on both sides of the face, but at different heights, thus allowing a better location of the prey. Thus, the owl's face is a large satellite dish.



(*)The owl has its ears at different heights. In this way, and in combination with its facial disc, the owl is able to triangulate the position of something, depending on the sound. This phenomenon is called an *eco-location*



1 - contour feathers. These feathers fill the head and most of the body. They don't have expertise;
2 - hearing feathers: fill the facial disc, have small branches and are permeable to sound;
3 - reflective feathers: present throughout the contour of the facial disc, these feathers direct the sound to the ears. (Source: von Campenhausen & Wagner 2006).



THE YEAR OF THE BARN OWL NOT A SOUND

Its feathers have a special structure that allows the friction with the air to be attenuated. Thus, they can fly in complete silence, and use the surprise effect at the time of the hunt.

#AVEDELAÑO
#AVEDOANO
#BIRDOFTHEYEAR

Original text from SEO Birdlife, translated by www.facebook.com/Corujandoporai



WHY ARE THERE LESS BARN OWLS?

DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT.
RADICAL AGRICULTURAL MODIFICATION.
LESS LIFE IN THE FIELD.
COLLISIONS.
ELECTROCUTIONS.
ROAD KILLS
INCLUSIVE, ILLEGAL TRADE.

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#BIRDOFTHEYEAR

Original text from SEO Birdlife, translated by www.facebook.com/Corujandoporai



THE YEAR OF THE BARN OWL

A PARABOLIC FACE

The barn owl's facial disc acts as a sort of parabolic antenna, which directs the sounds to the ears, one being higher than the other. Combining its face with its ears, the owl can accurately triangulate the place where its prey is, even in total darkness. This is called eco location.



#AVEDELAÑO
#AVEDOANO
#BIRDOFTHEYEAR

Original text from SEO Birdlife, translated by www.facebook.com/Corujandoporai



THE YEAR OF THE BARN OWL

ALLIES OF AGRICULTURE

Owls have always helped those working in the field, controlling rodent pests, among other issues. In some countries there are authentic nets of boxes and poles to favor their presence in the crops.



#AVEDELAÑO
#AVEDOANO
#BIRDOFTHEYEAR

Original text from SEO Birdlife, translated by www.facebook.com/Corujandoporai



9. How do they see?

Unlike most birds, the owl's eyes are in the frontal position: they can calculate depth and observe the reality in three dimensions. To see laterally, the neck allows it to turn the head 180 degrees on each side. The owls' vision is almost twice as sensitive to light as that of the human being, and it perceives everything that moves, so to confuse it, it is best to be completely still. Their eyes also work well in daylight, but sudden flashes - for example, of cars - can blind their vision momentarily.

10. How do owls fly?

In silence. Their feathers have a special structure that allows the friction with the air to be reduced. So they can play with the surprise effect when it comes to hunting. They are also experts on slow flights, which allow them to locate their prey better.

11. How do owls eat?

They are carnivorous and usually feed on small mammals, such as mice or rats. That is why, in many European countries, they are considered allies of farmers. In fact, there are actual real networks of nest boxes and perches to allow owls to eat the rats that feed on the crops. There are even barns adapted for them to make their nests. They swallow their prey completely, but do not digest the skin, the hair or the bones. This type of residue is later regurgitated in a ball known as pellet. If you find a kind of black ball with bones, there is an owl in the area.



¡Barn owls helping in the biological control of rodents in Indonesia!



How to feed owls in captivity.
Watch the videos on the channel
www.youtube.com/diariodefalconaria



12. How do owls sleep? Like all birds of prey, standing on their claws. They usually do this logically during the day. They are more active at sunrise and sunset.

13. Do owls migrate? The owls residents in Spain do not, although in winter there is the arrival of European owls. In any case, and in general, barn owls are sedentary and very cosmopolitan. It is not by chance that they are called barn owls or church owls, since these are places where they like to shelter and breed.



A barn owl eats an average of
1,000 small rodents a year!

14. Where do they live?

Owls live in territories that, in winter, reach about 5,000 hectares (or about 7,000 football fields). In summer, they generally reduce to 350 hectares. It's always the same. At the very least, each action area has a nest, a couple of places to sleep and an undetermined number of places to visit occasionally. Territories are not necessarily circular, they can take almost all forms, and while they spend their entire lives in them, owls study them: they memorize the best places to hunt, the best flight routes, the best place to nest

15. Where do they nest?

They do not build nests. They take advantage of all types of cavities, located mainly in rural buildings. That's why they're called barn owls, or, in Portuguese, church owls. It is not because they love these two types of buildings, but these places provide them with what they need: a refuge where they feel safe and protected from rain and wind, and because they are tall. Owls usually prefer places at least three feet above the ground

16. What climate do they prefer?

They are sedentary and they adapt to climatic variations. It is in the winter that they are in danger because of the scarcity of food and due to their need for more energy. Too much rain does not suit them, especially during the breeding season. Like so many other species, the extreme weather events that global warming brings impact their survival. Because their feathers are very soft, they are not impervious to rain, and periods with heavy, intermittent rains can make them unable to hunt and starve to death. As they also have accelerated metabolism, in the cold they need to feed more, and because they have a more restricted diet than other species (preferably rodents), their survival rate in winter decreases a lot.

17. How long do they live?

It is estimated that the average is four years, but the fact is that there are records of owls with 15, 17 and up to 25 years of age. This short average is due to the fact that mortality in the first year is big, and people don't not make things easier.

18. Are owls faithful?

They are incredibly faithful to their partner and the territory where they settle (depending on the circumstances, of course). This does not mean that they do not share an area with other couples or individuals. They are generally not very territorial.

19. Can you distinguish males and females?

The most distinctive element is that most females have small brown spots on the chest, while males usually have a completely white chest. In Brazil the barn owls have a darker color, yet females generally have a darker golden chest, and males have a whiter chest, but both have dark spots.



On the right Thoty (male) and on the left Sophia (female). In Brazil barn owls are much darker than the European ones.



Two female barn owls: Sophia (lighter) and Laskhmi (darker)

20. How is the barn owl singing?

In fact, they manifest a wide variety of vocalizations (17 types have already been recorded), almost all strident. The loudest sound is a loud, metallic chirp, which increases as the owl emits it. The truth is that it's perfect for a horror movie. Because of this "scream", characteristic of *Tytonidae* owls, many believe they attract death, and this causes the death of many owls all over the world.

21. Why is the barn owl associated with all kinds of legends? These poor owls are associated with both positive and negative things at the same time. Because they have nocturnal habits and a sound that sounds like a human scream, they are believed to bring a bad omen and even death. But they are also associated since ancient times to wisdom and knowledge.



22. How many are there?

It is difficult to know for certain because of their nocturnal habits, so the population size is just estimated. There is only one estimate for Spain, made in the 90's of last century and that suggested a population between 50,400 and 90,500 individuals. The European population, according to BirdLife International, has been estimated at between 111,000 and 230,000 and represents about 5% of the world's population. Regardless of the exact number, trends point to population declines.

Attention!

The indiscriminate use of poison for mice kill the owls, especially the barn owls, which feed mostly on small rodents. This is one of the factors that are putting them in risk in some countries. Therefore, do not use poison for mice, there are other ways to control rodents. Protect the owls! To learn more about owls, follow the Corujando por aí!



MORE ARTICLES ABOUT OWLS

Saiba tudo sobre a Egagrópila:

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/2016/08/05/Egagr%C3%B3pila>

Corujas de Igreja: amigas dos agricultores

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/2017/08/08/Corujas-de-Igreja-amigas-dos-agricultores>

Aprendendo sobre as corujas: Visão.

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/57594f830cf2cc77abfd46fa>

Corujas de igreja no inverno

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/#!/Corujas-de-igreja-no-inverno/cjds/57600af10cf29542aa27c3c4>

A lenda da suindara

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/#!/A-lenda-da-Suindara/cjds/578cd0230cf2a8522f8bf18>

Corujas tem orelhas?

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/2016/08/09/Corujas-tem-orelhas>

Veneno diga não

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/567196e40cf275ddd6e7b5fb>

Ajudando as corujas

<https://www.diariodefalconaria.com/single-post/5666dc4e0cf29cc38646ef7f>





Lakshmi

**"All roads lead to Rome,
For me, all roads lead me to owls."
Kátia Boroni**

I do not know how to begin this text, nor do I understand how I got here. The road was arduous and the final destination is still a mystery, as are its protagonists on this long journey. Every owl that came up in my life earned a name that had to do with its role, its importance, its contribution in this world. No life is by chance, no story is written without meaning, even if it takes a long time to join the pieces of this huge puzzle that we call destiny.

First Thoty should have arrived, the Egyptian God of Wisdom, inventor of hieroglyphs and writing. It made sense, after all he would be my main partner in my environmental education project with the owls. But the sands of fate have traced their own way, and disguised with a white fuzz, came a female owl named Sophia, the incarnation of knowledge, and my love of knowledge is not only greater than my love for this special barn owl. Then came her pair, Thoty, with its pure light symbolized in its white and gold color, rejoicing and giving strength to my work.

And then I made the decision to have another species of owl, but since I could not choose its sex I thought of several names. When I found out that it was a female I named her Verbena, the name of a flower known as Isis's tears, and that has a beautiful meaning. Legend says that when Isis cried for the death of her husband Osiris, flowers appeared where Isis's tears touched the ground.

Egypt, Greek Mythology, history and archeology that I love so much took me not only to names for my owls, but to the understanding that everything is interconnected, in the smallest details, and that everything that has happened was already written ... Maktub

Owls, still seen in modernity as witches in various cultures, are still persecuted and killed by urban legends of bad omen. But at the same time there are many legends and myths that see them as symbols of wisdom and knowledge, as enlightened beings.

As I search more about the mythology of owls, I came across Hinduism, and a particular Goddess, Lakshmi. Lakshmi is the goddess of the wealth of Hindu mythology, the consort of God Vishnu, who together with the Gods Brahma and Shiva form the trinity of the Hindu Divinity, known as the Trimurti.

Lakshmi means the energy of abundance in Sanskrit. Many believe that it symbolizes material wealth, considering that abundance refers only to prosperity, but goes far beyond that. The supreme state of abundance is love, and therefore it symbolizes everything good that exists: beauty, health, family, material goods, hope, power, success, etc. Lakshmi is usually represented with the lotus flower and her vehicle, or "Vahana" is a barn owl.

** Vahana (Sanskrit वाहन, Vāhana, literally "bearer, puller") denotes the being, typically an animal or a mythical entity, which a Hindu deity uses as its vehicle. In this case, the vahana is often called as the "mount" of the Deity.*



There are several reasons for choosing an owl as a vehicle, as we can find in several articles:

"Lakshmi is depicted in Indian art as an elegantly dressed, prosperity-showering golden-coloured woman with an owl as her vehicle, signifying the importance of economic activity in maintenance of life, her ability to move, work and prevail in confusing darkness"

<https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Lakshmi>

"I like to believe, that an owl is a good omen. The Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth in the Hindu mythology, is known to have a White Barn Owl as her vehicle. As a result, in Bengali households, one never drives away an owl, especially the White Barn Owl, as it symbolizes good fortune and wealth. This is a kind of totem that helps us save and preserve such rare species of birds. According to Bengalis, the White Barn Owl is also considered as a Brahmin (an upper caste amongst the Hindus) and is worshipped as the vahan or the vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi."

<http://www.tanyamunshi.com/travel/people-culture/the-totem-of-the-white-barn-owl/>



But not everything is positive, unfortunately. In 2016, while researching the impact of fireworks on animals, I came across Lakshmi for the first time. I have discovered that in India there is an important national celebration called Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights. It is a beautiful religious festival that symbolizes the destruction of the forces of evil. But for barn owls, this festival means death, either because of the noise of the fires, or by some people who catch them for religious sacrifices.

Diwali is a festival in honor of the Goddess Lakshmi, but it is also a date where many barn owls die, even though they are their vahanas. The cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty with a lot of sensitivity combined with humor shows this sad reality:

Dear Ma'am,
It has been my honour
being at your service
all these years...



But it is with deep regret
that I write to you
today, on this eve
of Diwali.



As you are well aware,
my acute hearing helps
me hunt rats in the dark-
a skill that has enabled me
to render free pest-control
services to mankind for
thousands of years.

But tonight, the sounds of
thousands of exploding crackers
will potentially deafen me,
disabling my hunting
abilities forever.



The air will be rendered
unbreathable from all
the pollution.



And to make it worse,
thousands of us will be
captured illegally to be
offered as religious sacrifices!



Ma'am, the owls of this
country deserve a LOT more
respect.



And thus, unless you,
in your capacity as
Honorable Goddess
of Wealth, have ensured
that crackers and
owl-poaching
have been banned
in practice
throughout India,



I, your 'Vahana', announce
my resignation from your office.

Wishing you a
happy Diwali,

Yours faithfully,
Barn Owl



"Green Humour is a series of cartoons, comics and illustrations on wild animals; wildlife and nature conservation, environment, sustainability and all things green.

With over 500 cartoons and counting, Green Humour is possibly the largest collection of cartoons on wildlife and environment on the web. "



By reading these comics, it became clear how it is necessary to continue bringing information to people, as environmental education is the key to protect not only the barn owls, but to what remains of good in this world. At the time I did not think about having another barn owl, but fate presented me with a new female barn owl, and I immediately chose Lakshmi's name for her, in honor of the Hindu Goddess I came to admire, and that the owl Lakshmi be her Vahala, the spokesperson of her wisdom, and be able to help her sisters and brothers bringing knowledge to everyone possible, that her wild siblings can fly through the sky without being the targets of fear, prejudice, trafficking, poisoning, and so many other interferences that we cause in their lives.

May Lakshmi help to create empathy, to awaken the consciousness of those who have not yet realized that it is necessary for each of us to work together to have a better and more fair world.

And it is through love, empathy, education and words that we will reach this goal, that we will build a better world, and be sure that the greatest abundance that exists is love, and this is what I ask of Lakshmi, more love!

OM SHRIM MAHA LAKSHMIYEI SWAHA

"Om and greetings. I invoke the Great Feminine Principle of Great Abundance. "



References

<https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Lakshmi>

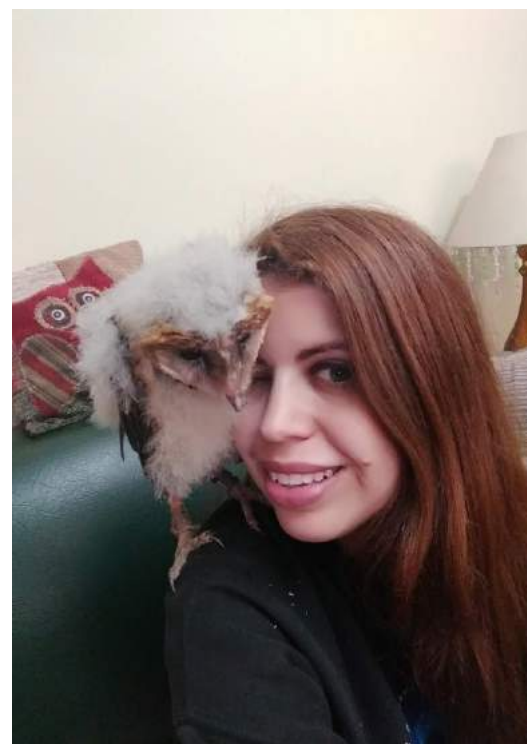
<http://www.tanyamunshi.com/travel/people-culture/the-totem-of-the-white-barn-owl/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBFRncsw-V0&start_radio=1&list=RDaBFRncsw-V0

Rohan Chakravarty:
<http://www.greenhumour.com/>



Lakshmi





**VICTOR
BASÍLIO**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

#MOMENTONATUREZA



Fond of animals since childhood, Vitor Basílio, now 24, says he was born a Biologist. Graduated in Biology and finishing now the bachelor's degree, he works in all the areas related to animals, and with all kinds of animals as well: wild, tamed, big or small, where there's an animal, there he is! He sees his profession as a way of life, as destiny, he can't imagine doing anything else in life except working with nature and for nature.

Creator of the youtube channel **Momento Natureza** he seeks through his videos to share information so that people can educate themselves about the environment. He cares immensely about the amount of fake News today, so he devotes so much to his channel. The fame, according to him is secondary, it has never been his intention to become famous, but to contribute in the environmental education.



**COMMON
SNAPPING TURTLE**
(*Chelydra serpentina*)



**BLACK-TUFTED
MARMOSET**
(*Callithrix penicillata*)



**SOUTH AMERICAN
COATI**
(*Nasua nasua*)



**VEILED
CHAMELEON**
(*Chamaeleo calyptratus*)

Talking about environmental education, he assesses how important it is that the environmental education be seen as a priority and present in all spheres of society, something that doesn't happen nowadays:

"Environmental education is of extreme importance and it is urgent that it becomes more popular, it should be a priority in schools, courses, colleges, advertisements, soap operas, everything, absolutely everything !!! As the path we are taking is almost gone. The challenge is lack of investment, people (government), only invest in what gives money, and unfortunately they do not see that preservation in the medium / long term, can generate income for the country, end poverty, and various other things. The professionals who make Environmental Education today, they take out of their own pocket many times, and there comes a time that it ends. It is sad to see Brazil, the most biodiverse country in the world, being degraded by ignorance, by its futile population. "

He is crazy about primates, but the most incredible experience he has ever had was with a Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), in a rescue he participated in and that transformed him forever:



"Despite my fascination with primates, which are by far the animals I love the most, the most incredible animal I dealt with until now was a Humpback Whale, it was the rescue of a 10-ton young one, affectionately called Juju, which unfortunately died a day after the rescue, that rescue changed my life as I had not imagined, and I always say there is a Victor before the whale, and a Victor after the whale."

He still has many plans to help nature, so follow his news on his Channel Momento Natureza.



www.instagram.com/victorcbasilio



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POISON? SAY NO!

THE DANGER OF THE USE OF POISON FOR OWLS

BY KÁTIA BORONI

The indiscriminate use of poison for mice causes a lot of impact to the environment. Poison, after being placed in the environment, does not respect borders, walls or fences, reaching any kind of animal that has contact with it. That is why its use is so dangerous, because in addition to causing accidents with domestic animals such as cats and dogs, it also kills the natural predators of mice, such as birds of prey, and among them the owls.

The project **RATS: Raptors are the solution** clarifies the population about the danger of the use of second-generation rodenticides (*brodifacoum*).

"Anticoagulant and other rodenticides made to kill rodents are also killing birds of prey, dogs and cats, and many species of wild animals, including several species threatened with extinction."



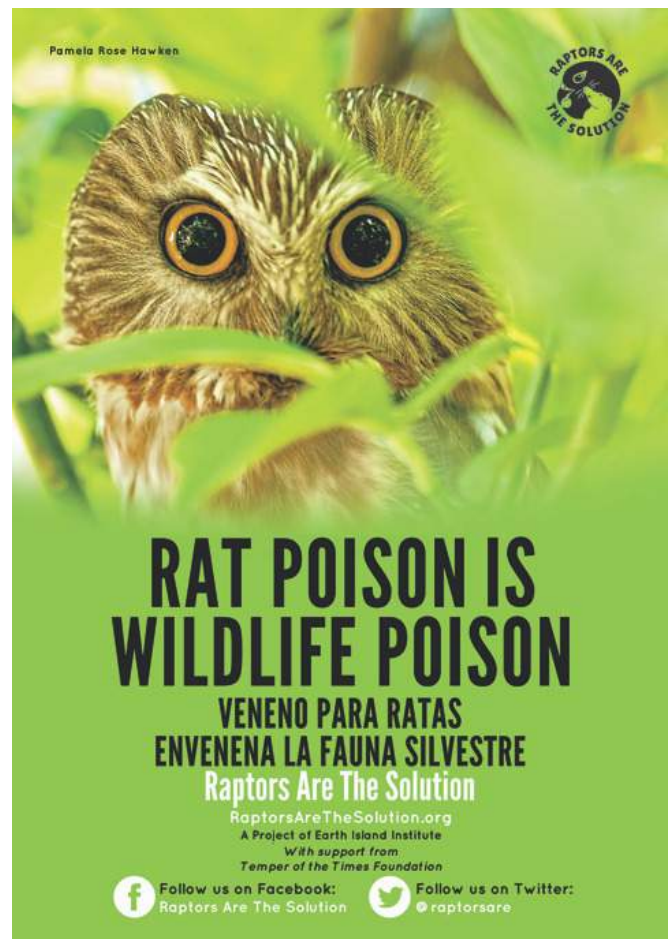
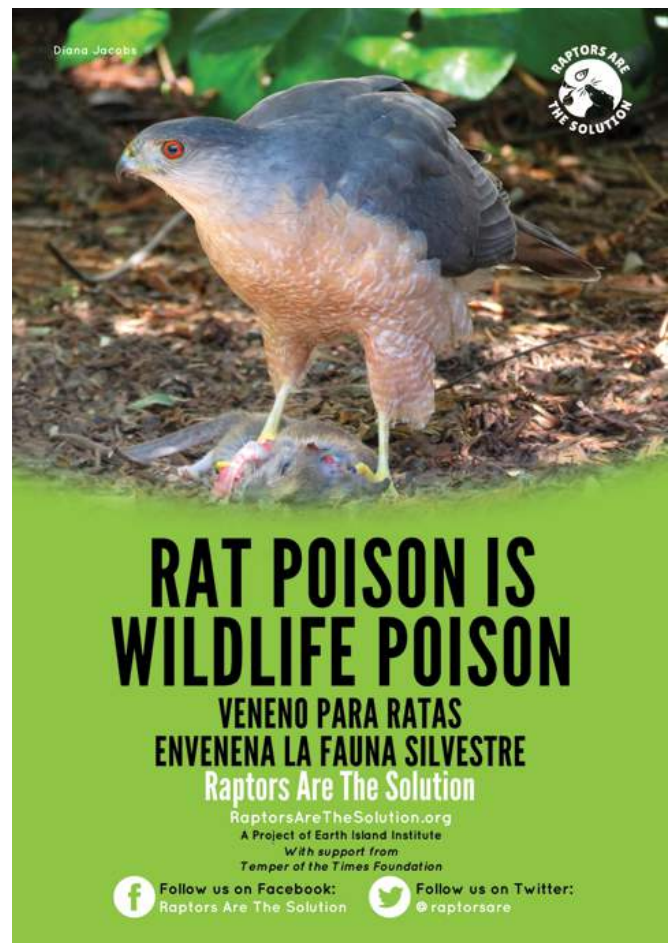
Sharmayne Magana Steffenon et al, in the text "Accidental ingestion of brodifacoum by a dog", published in the journal of Agricultural Veterinary Sciences, relate the case of accidental poisoning by a 3-year-old Pinscher weighting 2 kg, having ingested two packets of a brodifacoum rodenticide. After the emergency treatment the dog managed to recover, which is not always possible, due to the potency of this poison. In their text the authors warn about the danger of using this poison for dogs:

"The products used for the control of rodents occupy the third position among the most common causes of exposures to toxic agents in dogs, about 20% of these exposures result in intoxication (OSWEILER, 1998). The appropriate therapeutics and the time elapsed between the intake and the first procedures are the main factors that determine the success of the treatment, which can cause coagulation disturbances and death of the patient, if it is not well conducted. "Steffenon et al, 2013

Owls in danger

The Barn Owl Trust is a project founded in 1988 in England, with the aim of protecting, rescuing and raising awareness among the population about the importance of the conservation of barn owls (*Tyto alba*).

Unfortunately, barn owls, previously abundant in nature, today are increasingly rare. The reasons are all caused by man: lack of food caused by the growth of agriculture, loss of habitat, mortality caused by the use of poison for rodents and road kill are the main causes of owl deaths today in England and throughout the world. We can still add in this list the traffic of wild animals and prejudice as other factors that are killing this and other species of owls in the world.



Poster of the RATS Campaign warning about the danger of the use of rodenticides for wildlife, especially for birds of prey.

"The extent to which SGARs (second generation anticoagulant rodenticides) contaminated predators of small mammals is shocking. The proportion of contaminated owls reached its highest level in 2015, an alarming 94%. The last number (2017) is 90%. The results of the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme show that 100% of the common kestrel falcons (*Falco tinnunculus*) that were examined in 2011 were contaminated, along with 94% of the Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*).

Unfortunately in Brazil, the sale of poison is even more indiscriminate than in other countries, and it is very easy to find the famous "chumbinho", an illegal product that despite being deadly is not efficient for the control of rodents:

Chumbinho (in Brazil) is a clandestine product, irregularly used as rodenticide. Studies show that its use as rodenticide is not efficient. Despite the mouse, after eating the poison, dies very close to the poisoned food, studies of the rat's habit show that it is commonly the oldest the first to feed, and, as soon as it dies, the younger ones reject the food .
(WIKIPEDIA)

While people are not aware of the dangers of using poisons for mice, thousands of sad stories of domestic animal poisoning will continue to occur every day, and wildlife will also be impacted. Therefore, do not use rat poison, look for a serious company and try to use a safer solution, for yourselves and for the animals. Owls are grateful!



References

www.raptorsarethesolution.org
www.barnowltrust.org.uk
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BATS

FAMOUS AND FEARFUL



It is very common to see bats scattered around the cities, not exactly flying through the skies, but in t-shirt prints and other elements thanks to their popularity in association with Batman. But even being an animal related to the world of superheroes, outside the screens of the cinemas people are afraid and have a lot of prejudice in relation to these animals that are very important for the ecological balance.

FROM HERO TO VILLAIN

Despite the undeniable positive view thanks to Batman, bats are also associated with vampires, and because of the legends and movies relating bats with blood and death, bats suffer from prejudice and are often killed for that reason.

Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight.



www.greenhumour.com/acmtr.org

DISMISTIFYING IS NECESSARY

Bats are intimately related to our well-being, since they perform ecological services that improve our quality of life, and are considered as indicators of the level of environmental disturbance.

There are several types of bats: **insectivores** (with insect-based feeding); **frugivores** (with fruit-based food); **carnivores** (they feed on small terrestrial vertebrates such as frogs, birds, etc.); **piscivores** (they feed on fish and aquatic arthropods); **omnivores** (eat fruit, flowers, insects and small vertebrates) and **hematophagy** (which feed on blood). About 70% of bat species are insectivorous, and they are found almost everywhere in the world. In the world there are approximately 1,200 species, and in Brazil there are approximately 180 species of bats.



Frugivorous bats play a fundamental role in the recovery of degraded areas, by dissipating seeds of native plants. Their importance as pollinators affects especially human economy, since many fruits such as bananas, avocado, guava, etc have flowers that only open at night. C. F. DIAZ 2013. The usefulness of bats for agriculture goes further, even their feces are useful for cultivation. It has been proven that the so-called guano is an excellent natural fertilizer marketed in many countries.

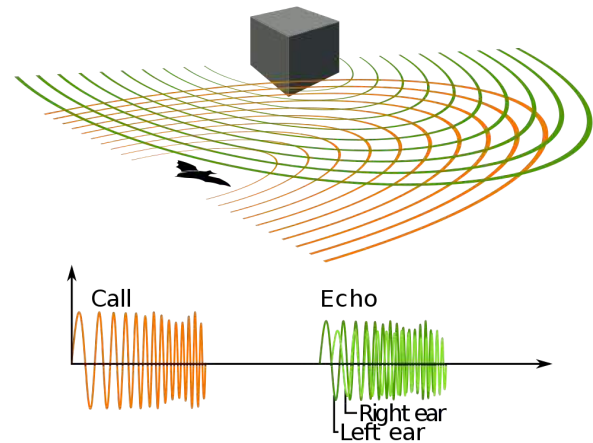
The insectivorous species correspond to 75% of the species of bats, and each million of bats consume approximately ten tons of insects every night, thus realizing a natural biological control of insects harmful to human health, such as the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. There are even studies that consider bats more important for this biological control than birds. In Brazil, the biologist and researcher Maria da Conceição, from the State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS), studies the control of the mosquito population by bats.

"We are going through a very difficult time in the Public Health of the country because of the diseases transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, therefore protecting bats is a guarantee that fewer mosquitoes will circulate in the environment"

There are only three *hematophagous* species, all native to Latin America, with two of these species feeding on bird blood, and only one of the blood of mammals. The *hematophagous* species that feed on mammals is the *Desmodus rotundus*, and in 2015 more than 1,300 properties in São Paulo registered attacks from them. Despite being popularly feared, there are investigations being conducted currently that analyze the anticoagulant properties of their saliva, for use in humans in the treatment of heart diseases (Reddrop et al, 2005, apud DIAZ 2013).

ECHOLOCATION

Bats have a mechanism called echolocation, which works like a sonar. Bats emit sounds inaudible by man, in waves of very high frequency. These ultrasound impulses help them locating the position of objects and animals, as well as their shape and dimension.



A flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*)
(Megachiroptera: Pteropodidae)
Photo: Wikipedia



A common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*), in the farm Canchim, Brazil. Photo: Wikipedia

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

Deforestation is one of the main threats to the survival of bats. The advance of agriculture, especially of soybean and sugar crops, as well as the fragmentation of forests, constitute serious threats to bats. But it is the fear and prejudice that cause mass deaths of bats throughout the world, since the urban cohabitation between bats and man ends up putting them at risk, as they are seen as urban plagues and therefore exterminated.

According to studies in Argentina (Lunney, 1990 apud DIAZ 2013) the conservation of bats is a completely ignored issue. The PCMA conservation program of Argentina tries to demystify and protect bats. In Brazil we have the "Programa de conservação de morcegos no Brasil", and in the United States we have the Bat World Sanctuary, to name a few.

FLYING FOXES



In Australia thousands of species of flying fox bats (large bats of the genus *Pteropus*) and true bats (order *Chiroptera*) die by electrocution or are killed by shots by farmers.

There are several conservation and rehabilitation projects for bats in Australia that try to save these important agricultural allies, although they are not seen that way by the majority of the population, among them we can mention the "Shoalhaven Bat Clinic and Sanctuary, Do not Shoot Bats, and Bats QLD.

We conclude, therefore, the need to demystify and inform the population of the importance of bats, and promote a peaceful and safe coexistence between humans and bats, for the benefit of both.



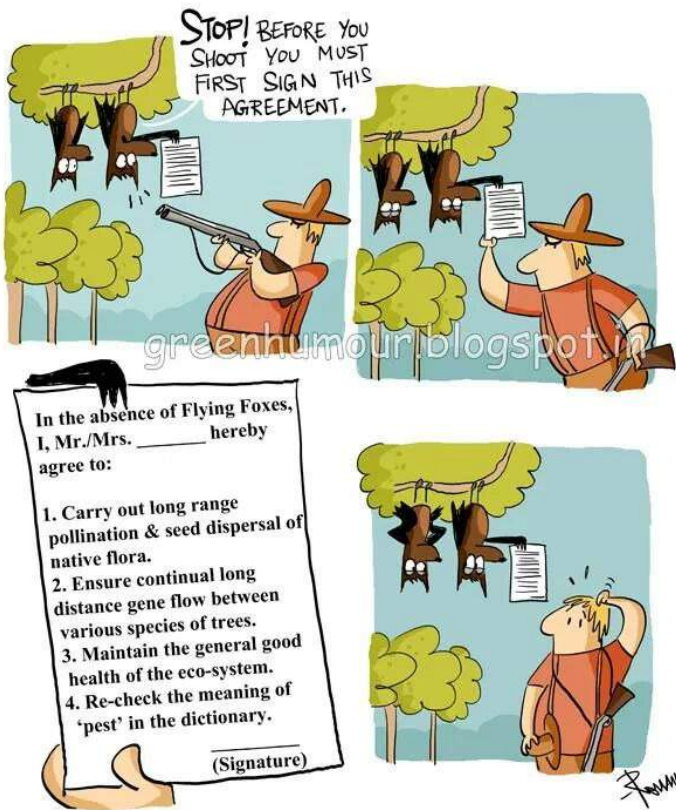
Killing flying-foxes does not work as a method of crop protection. This has been the view of farmers for the past 150 years. Full exclusion netting is the only consistently effective method for protecting fruit crops, and is recommended by governments and industry experts.

Dont Shoot Bats - www.dontshootbats.com



Our missions is to Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release the injured and orphaned Bats and Flying Foxes in South East Queensland that comes into our care throughout the year and to educate the public in how they can best help the Flying Foxes in their area.

Bats QLD - www.batsqld.org.au



They are dispersers of seeds, of many seeds, they make at night the role that birds make during the day, they are responsible for replanting different species, and for the firm growth of the forest. They are pollinators, that is, they help plants in their reproduction, they are predators, keeping controlled the populations of other species, most invertebrates, but there are some that even eat fish, others that feed on blood, that's crazy, isn't it? They are also prey, helping to keep other species of animals alive.

*Guys, these animals are almost responsible for life in caves, their feces are formed by almost everything, in short, they are really incredible animals, incredible! Oh, do you know those horrible things that people say about them? That's nonsense from crazy people, do not believe in that please, respect them, these animals are very useful, much more than us! Victor Basílio – Biologist.
Photo: Bat- "Sturmira lilium".*

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I want to have a pet owl, now what?

Many people ask me how to have an owl or a hawk in Brazil. The purchase process is simple, but it takes a lot of study before buying your bird, so you can give her the necessary feeding, manning and training so that the owl has good health, be calm and tame. The pages Corujando por ai and Diário de Falcoaria have many free publications to help all those who think about having an owl.



All magazines can be downloaded for free, and in three languages, on the site
www.diariodefalconaria.com



We have two YouTube channels with lots of information for those who want to have an owl or a hawk.

www.youtube.com/corujandoporai
www.youtube.com/diariodefalconaria



I WANT TO HAVE A PET OWL NOW WHAT?

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STUDY!

Do not buy on impulse! Owls require a lot of study, dedication, daily manning, training and specific feeding. Before buying yours, study and take falconry courses.

RATS?



Yes, owls eat rats and mice. Although it is possible to vary the feeding with quail or one-day-chicks, rodents are owls's food base. If you think rats are disgusting, so rethink if you really want to have an owl!



EQUIPMENT

It is necessary to purchase equipment to keep an owl in captivity, such as falconry gloves, bracelets and jesses, perches, etc. Buy everything before your owl arrives.

CHOOSING THE SPECIES



Each species of owl has a special manning, then study about the species available for purchase and choose according to your experience, space and time for manning.



LEGALIZED BREEDING CENTERS

Owls can only be acquired in Brazil in legalized breeding centers by IBAMA / IEF, otherwise it is an environmental crime. See how is the situation in your country. Be responsible, respect the law.

READ OUR MAGAZINES



To learn more about manning, training, feeding, breeding centers, etc., download the Corujando por ai (Owldering around) magazines for free at www.diariodefalconaria.com

Authorized breeding centers in Brazil



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**NEW BREEDING CENTER OF
BIRDS OF PREY IN BRAZIL
FROM JÚNIOR CEPAR**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

#CEPARAMBIENTAL





BREEDING CENTER CEPAR

The new commercial breeding center of birds of prey promises to put on the market new species of owls and diurnal birds of prey.

Interview with the owner Júnior Cepar

By Kátia Boroni

How did you come up with the idea of opening a breeding center of Birds of prey?

Since I was a child I've always enjoyed breeding animals, could be parakeets, fish, hamsters etc. When Falconry appeared in my life I have already thought about breeding, with that I started to build recints in a country house that I had in Salvador / BA / Brazil, so that when Ibama would re-authorize the opening of new breeding centers, I would have everything ready and it would be just starting the process for getting the authorization. This dream was then delayed both by the delay, the delay that I have been waiting since 2010, and because I moved to Rio de Janeiro and have to dedicate myself more intensely to the work of Falconry both at the Galeão airport and in the fauna controls of pigeon that my company called CEPAR performs in several states.

Parallel to this I managed to organize things and return with that dream that was paused, I acquired a farm and began to build the enclosures, but before that I traveled abroad, visited many breeding places in several countries, I studied a lot, I exchanged a lot of information for building the mews that fit our reality better. And today it is a dream that I've finally managed to achieve, with the support of many who are around me, living this dream that is now a reality and they will certainly enjoy it.

Yes,
we will have
more species
of owls
available
soon.



Vista nocturna del centro

What are your criteria for choosing the species to be made available?

The criteria I divide according to genus. Owls, as they are normally used as pets, I have used the criterion of trying to encompass all sizes to try to reach both those people who do not have much space for a large owl, as much as the people that have it, and also the question of beauty and manning in captivity .

As for the hawks and falcons, I used the simple criterion of birds that I think have the potential for Falconry, trying to encompass both those who enjoy high flying, and those who prefer low flying. Some of the species that will be available soon are:

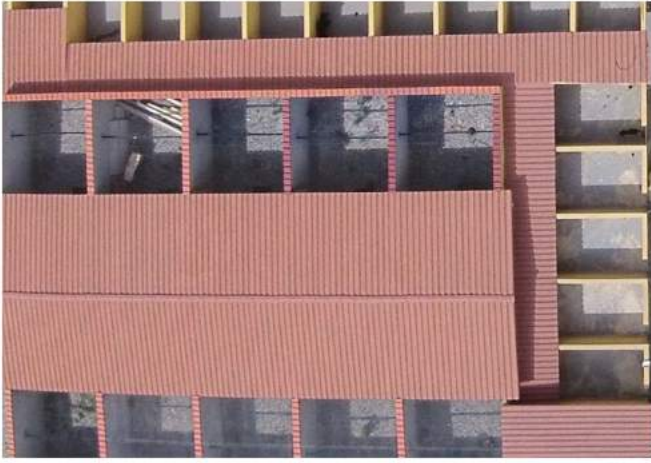
Falco femoralis, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco deiroleicus*, *Falco rufigularis*, *Accipters*, *Tyto furcata*, *Strix hulula*, *Asio clamator*, among others.



Striped owl
(*Asio clamator*)



Black-banded owl
(*Strix hulula*)



Aerial and internal images of Cepar Breeding Center

How is the process for the acquisition of the breeding pairs?

As I am very concerned with the genotype and the phenotype, I have tried to introduce into the breeding stock birds that we have already used in the works, which have already proven the efficiency we seek and the behavioral and anatomical characteristics, which I, Junior Abreu, observed and seek as quality for the activities we carry out.

As many of the species that we want to reproduce have not yet been commercialized in Brazil, some of them have been imported from both Germany and Spain, and others are being received from the Union (cetas, ibama, crás). Some of our birds that were already born in the center we had the concern of testing, before even commercializing them, and we are quite satisfied with them

What species are already available for sale and how to buy?

Today we have couples of several species, and a few more to arrive, but as the Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) does not have an specific reproductive period, reproducing practically all over the year, today 03/08/2018 we have only chicks of them, but we are already starting the breeding season and we've already have couples of hawks, falcons and owls together for some time, we hope this 2018 breeding season will be good.



Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

What are the biggest challenges of running a breeding center?

The biggest challenge is knowing how to manage without counting your hawks before they're hatched (or falcons, owls...) they are animals and not machines, our part we must do, which is to provide favorable enclosures to make them feel well to reproduce, good supplemented food, correct hygiene and hope that everything goes well and when nature decides it will come. I do not usually raise expectations, as this is very bad for me, I'm very anxious, and a disappointment is very frustrating and it does not do well for breeding as it is a business. Therefore values and bookings are only done after a few days of birth, in this way the chances are minimal of the client getting frustrated and end up denigrating your name, which took so much time to build, and a dream that came true and something pleasant turns out to a nightmare and generates constant problems

What is the differential of your breeding center?

It's difficult to talk about a differential, I know all the breeding centers today in Brazil and all have many qualities and defects as everyone in the world has. I believe that those who kept mistakes soon will end, because they have only been held so far for lack of competition. With the opening of new breeding centers, or you serve your customers better or you fall behind, it's the old law of supply and demand. But my differential I prefer that the falconers who will buy my birds compare and say, but beforehand honesty and clarity is something that we cherish.



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GREAT GREY OWL

Strix nebulosa

FILE OF THE SPECIES



The Great Grey owl

THE IMPONENT KING OF THE SNOW

The Great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*) is a big grey owl with dense, fluffy plumage, long wings and tail, and a large head with no ear-tufts and a proeminent facial disk. The species name *nebulosa* is derived from the Latin *Nebulosus*, meaning misty or foggy. This Owl is the provincial bird emblem of Manitoba, Canada.



Size

Length: 61-84cm.

Wing length: 387-483mm.

Wingspan: up to 152cm.

Tail length: 285-347mm.

Weight: 790-1454g.

* Females are larger and heavier than males.

Habits

The Great Grey Owl is most active at night, but also at dusk and just before dawn; sometimes it's active during the day in breeding season.

Hunting and prey

The Great Grey Owl hunts mainly during early morning and late afternoon, especially during winter, but will also hunt during other daylight hours and at night. Although it is a very large owl, small rodents are its main prey (80 to 90% of the diet), with mice being the most important food in Alaska, Canada and Oregon.

Geomyidae or pocket gophers are the most important food source in California. Other hunted mammals include rats, mice, squirrels, rabbits, moles and comets. Birds are rarely caught.



Owldering around

The secret plan

By Kátia Boroni



**Reunion
NOW!!**



**What is it that the
hysteric wants now?**

**Do not say that
Bubú, 'cause Sophia
gets mad!**



**Bubu? Who gave
you this intimacy?**



**Verbena and Thoty
listen to me, it's
very serious!**







THE END

Owldering around Kids

Let's color Thot?



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