

MUNICIPAL EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

SCHOOL №23

SUMMER PHILOLOGICAL SCHOOL-21
INHABITANTS OF FAR EASTERN TAIGA
FISH OWL



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FORM «5 PH»

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Fish Owl (Latin: *Bubo blakistoni*)

The fish owl inhabits the valleys of mountain rivers and the surrounding mountain slopes, overgrown with coniferous and mixed forests, as well as valley and floodplain forests. It prefers rivers that partially do not freeze and there is enough local and passing fish in them, and there are hollow trees along the banks.

The body length is about 70 cm, the weight of the female exceeds 4 kg. It has wide feather ears. The wings are long and the tail is slightly rounded. The color is monotonous, brownish, with dark longitudinal spots all over the body, and a white spot on the throat. Sometimes there are also white spots on the top and back of the head. On the plantar surface of the fingers there are small spikes that help to hold the prey.



The Far Eastern fish owl mainly feeds on crayfish, muskrats, minks, and amphibians. Fish owls are active not only at dusk, but also during the day. The predator does not have a protective, water-repellent layer of fat, so the feathers can get wet. Under the influence of cold, the plumage of the bird is covered with a crust of ice. In this state, the owl does not have the opportunity not only to take off, but also to move from the spot. In this case, the bird is threatened with death. Although the fish owl can catch prey all day, it is most active in the early morning or late evening. The predator guards its territory and keeps a sharp eye on it so that an outsider does not get into it.

The economic significance of the owl is difficult to determine: in some places it is harmful, in some places (in the steppes, where it destroys rodents) it is useful. A live owl abroad is often used as a bait in the extermination of harmful birds. Taking advantage of the fact that hawks, crows, magpies, seeing a calmly sitting owl, rush at it and collect other birds with a cry, the hunter calmly shoots them from ambush. This greatly facilitates the fight against harmful predators near poultry farms and dacha farms.

Resources

1. <https://www.zoopark-rostov.ru/index.php/zivotnye/pticy/236-filin>
2. http://boomerangclub.ru/up/images/informaciya/priroda-sakhalina-i-kuril/multemediinie-diski/red%20book/an/red_info/02_106.htm
3. https://web-zoopark.ru/ptitsi/filin_rybnyj.html
4. <https://animalreader.ru/ryibnyiy-filin.html>.
5. <https://moscowzoo.ru/pro/programs/programma-po-razvedeniyu-i-sokhraneniyu-rybnogo-filina-ketupa-blakistoni/>



Fish Owl.m4a

OWL AND HIS FRIEND

The Owl was satisfied with everything in his life. He was happy in his little hollow. He enjoyed watching the sunset on the horizon from the branch of a pine tree. He didn't need more than that.

"You're a strange owl," his friend once said to him. – You don't need anything, you don't want anything.

– Is it really strange to be satisfied with your life... - the friend raised his eyebrows. He had never thought about it before. "Are you unhappy, Owl?"

"Of course," the Owl snorted. – I'm the most miserable bird in the world.

– But what are you missing?"

"Very much," and the Owl began to enumerate, fingering the feathers on its right wing. – First, I want to live in that oak tree that was recently discovered in the berry patch. Have you heard of it?"

The friend knew about that oak tree – all the birds in the forest knew about it. This oak was huge, and it was as wide as twenty pines. This oak tree has not yet been inhabited by anyone. But it never occurred to the friend to dream of inhabiting it.

"Secondly, I want new wings with improved aerodynamics," the Owl counted out the second feather on the wing. And immediately counted out the third. - I want to make a plastic beak-I don't like my curved beak...

"Strange," the friend interrupted. – I thought you were happy."

"You are stupid, my friend," the Owl chuckled. – It's not fashionable to be happy with everything these days. It's unfashionable to be happy.

All evening, the friend thought about what he had learned from the Owl: what is fashionable and what is not. Oh, from that oak tree, for sure, there is an amazing view of the lake. Besides, his beak isn't so perfect either.

He thought so much that he missed his favorite sunset.

"Well, at least it's fashionable," his friend muttered to himself as he fell asleep.

