

## What's Happening in the Nest?

If the great horned owls nearby had a sign outside their nest it would say “do not disturb!” These owls need quiet and calm to incubate their eggs and raise their young.

The great horned owl usually makes its home in an old nest of a hawk or some other large bird in late January or early February. Then the female owl faithfully incubates her eggs for about a month until they hatch. Her mate helps by feeding her as she sits on the eggs. These owls are attentive parents, feeding their two to four downy owlets for 80 to 90 days before the babies are ready to leave the nest.

Sometimes called “winged tigers,” great horned owls are fierce hunters. Rabbits are their preferred food, but these three-and-a-half pound birds can kill prey as much as three times their weight. They are not picky eaters; over 250 species have been identified as prey including ducks, geese, small house cats or dogs, and skunks.

The feathery ear tufts you see are not ears, just feathers! They are large owls that grow up to two feet long with wing spans that can reach five feet across.

**Give a hoot. Take care to respect the owls that visit Twin Lakes so they will return in the future:**

- ◆ Give them their space, stay behind the fence
- ◆ Don't shine flashlights in their eyes at night
- ◆ Don't shout or make too much noise around the owls

