



# **Bennet's Wallaby (Red-necked Wallaby)**



**The Bennett's Wallaby is naturally found in the woods and grasslands of Tasmania, and in the southeastern coast of Australia.**

**They breed in the late summer and have adapted to living near to humans and can be found grazing on lawns in the fringes of urban areas.**

**They are one of the largest species of Wallaby but still only about a third of the size of a kangaroo.**

**Because of their large flat feet, Wallabies jump well. There is a large colony in captivity in Whipsnade Zoo, Bedfordshire, and local residents often report seeing them grazing on the hillsides outside the confines of the zoo.**

**Bennett's are usually solitary, but loose groups called 'mobs', often share common feeding areas.**



## Parma Wallaby



The Parma Wallaby, also known as the white-throated Wallaby, was thought to be extinct for over 100 years but in 1965, on the small islands of New

Zealand, rangers discovered that there were actually Parma Wallabies among the other wallaby species!

They were saved and sent around the world, in an attempt to breed enough animals for re-introduction to their native forests in New South Wales, Australia.

The Parma Wallaby is the smallest member of the genus *Macropus*, at between 3.2 and 5.8 kg, less than one tenth the size of the largest surviving member, the Red Kangaroo.

Like the kangaroo, the Wallaby is a marsupial. Marsupial babies have to crawl into their mothers pouch as soon as they are born where they drink the mothers milk and live in the pouches for several months to over year. They feed on grasses, herbs and shrubs and here at Belmont Childrens Farm we give our Wallabies some carrots with their daily feed.



## **Did You Know..?**

- **Although they come from Australia, which is generally a hot country, they are happy living in a relatively cold and wet environment...**
- **Wallabys are part of the 'Macropodae' family of Marsupials. 'Macro-Pod' means 'Big-foot'...**
- **Wallabies do not have sweat glands. They have to either lick themselves or pant in order to cool down.**
- **A baby kangaroo or Wallaby is called a Joey...**



# Snowy Owl

**These beautiful birds have white and dark brown feathers covering their bodies that give them camouflage in their usually snowy habitat. Males can be pure white whereas females always have some bars of brown feathers across their tail, back and wings.**



**Since Snowy Owls are found in cold climates they have a thick layer of down underneath their many layers of feathers that helps to keep them warm in even the coldest temperatures.**

**The Snowy Owl is well equipped for hunting with large eyes, 25 to 35 mm long black talons to grip prey.**

**Snowy owls choose one breeding partner and usually stay with that Owl for the rest of their lives.**

**Unlike many other Owls they are not nocturnal. This is because in their native habitat of the Arctic they have almost constant daylight during their breeding and nesting periods.**



## **Did You Know..?**

- **Owls can turn their head through 180 degrees...**
- **Some Snowy Owls migrate across the Pacific Ocean from Russia to Canada...**
- **During hot weather they cool themselves by panting and beating their wings...**
- **'Hedwig', from J.K. Rowlings 'Harry Potter' series of books is a Snowy Owl...**



# European Eagle Owl

**The Eagle Owl is often thought of as the largest Owl species standing at 75cm, with a wingspan up to 175cm.**



**These powerful birds will kill and eat anything from small beetles to large Roe Deer fawns and they can adapt their methods for hunting according to the prey and habitat in which they are hunting. With their unrivalled night vision, advanced hearing, and silent flight they are the nighttime masters of their territory. Their prey usually has no idea they are being stalked!**

**The female is noticeably larger than her male counterpart and her 'Ear Tufts' are slightly less upright.**

**Eagle Owls like other owls cough up what is known as an owl pellet. These pellets contain the hair, feathers, and bones of prey they were unable to digest. They are very useful to scientists because they help them understand the food habits of these unusual birds.**



## **Did You Know..?**

- **Eagle Owls are 'Keystone Predators' and are particularly noted in controlling populations of mice, rats and voles ...**
- **Eagle Owls have been sighted nesting around the UK.... Most of these sightings have yet to be confirmed...**
- **An Eagle Owl named 'Bubi', landed in the Helsinki Olympic Stadium to watch a football match in 2007. After a Finnish player scored the opening goal he tired of the game and flew away... the match finished 1-0 to Finland!**



# Storks



The European subspecies of the Stork breeds in several discontinuous populations across much of Europe, the Middle East and west-central Asia. A very small population breeds in extreme southern Africa in Cape Province, South Africa. They are a migratory bird, moving from their northern range to the warmer south

for the winter months.

It is a huge bird, 100-125 cm (40-50 in.) tall, with a 155-200 cm (61-79 in) wingspan and a weight of 2.3-4.5 kg (5-10 lbs). It is completely white except for the black wing flight feathers, and its red bill and legs, which are black on juveniles. It walks slowly and steadily on the ground. Like most storks it flies with its neck outstretched.

White storks breed in open farmland areas with access to marshy wetlands, building a stick nest in trees, on buildings, or special platforms. In southern Europe, storks' nests can be seen on churches and other buildings, often in small colonies. Like most of their relatives, they feeds on fish, frogs and insects but also eats small reptiles, rodents and smaller birds.



## **Did you know...?**

- **The white stork is almost silent except for the noisy mutual bill-clattering when adults meet at their nests.**
- **In many culture's Storks are viewed as bird of good luck. They are believed to bring harmony and peace to the households near where they nest.**
- **According to mythology, the 'stork' is responsible for bringing babies to new parents. This story probably came about because White Storks have a habit of nesting on buildings.**
- **Use thermal air currents for energy efficient soaring during migration. This means that their migratory route has to stay over land!**