**Owls** are a group of birds that belong to the [order](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_(biology)) **Strigiformes**, constituting 200 [extant](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/extant) [bird of prey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_of_prey) [species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species). Most are [solitary](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/solitary) and [nocturnal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nocturnal_animal), with some exceptions (e.g., the [Northern Hawk Owl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Hawk_Owl)). Owls hunt mostly small [mammals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal), [insects](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insect), and other birds, although a few species specialize in hunting [fish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish). They are found in all regions of the Earth except[Antarctica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctica), most of [Greenland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenland) and some remote islands. Though owls are typically solitary, the literary [collective noun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_noun) for a group of owls is a *parliament*. Owls are characterized by their small beaks and wide faces, and are divided into two [families](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(biology)): the [typical owls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typical_owl), Strigidae; and the [barn-owls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barn-owls), Tytonidae.