Largest mouth
A bowhead whale’s massive maw can measure 6 m (18 ft) long and 2.5 m (8 ft) wide. Native to Arctic waters, bowheads are also the longest-lived mammals, with one individual found in 2007 estimated by scientists to be around 211 years old!

Longest amphibian migration
Most amphibians don’t migrate far because they need to stay close to water, but two species of European water frog – the pool frog and the green frog (right) – have been known to cover distances of 15 km (9.3 mi).

Most widely distributed owl
The common barn owl’s near-global range is estimated at 63.3 million km² (24.4 million sq mi). Antarctica is the only continent it doesn’t inhabit. It hunts at night; even in total darkness it can find the smallest scurrying rodent using its super-sensitive hearing.

Most endangered wild cat
The Iberian lynx, smaller than its Eurasian cousin but with the same bobbed tail, lives only in Spain and Portugal. Conservation projects are helping to restore its numbers; the latest 2015 census showed the total had quadrupled to 404 in 13 years.

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Largest grouse
Male western capercaillies, which live in the pine forests of northern Europe, can weigh 4 kg (8 lb 13 oz); the females are roughly half that size. In the spring, the males are famed for their outlandish and noisy courtship dance, known as a “lek”.

Rarest seal
The Mediterranean monk seal, so-called because its coloured like a monk’s habit, is such a good swimmer that it can out-manoeuvre a shark. Scientists estimate that there are only around 600 adults left; sadly, the related Caribbean monk seal is already extinct.

EUROPE
From the frozen north to the balmy Mediterranean Sea, a bounty of wildlife calls this continent home.