



ON THE MAP

EUROPE

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



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.



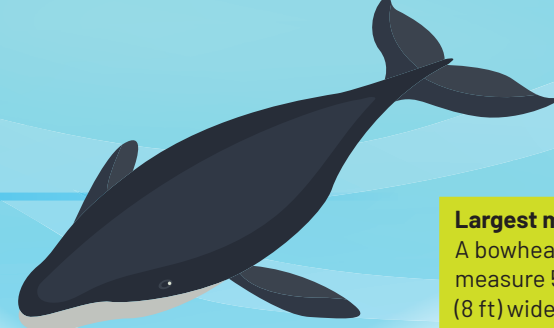
Largest grouse

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".



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.



Largest mouth

A bowhead whale's massive maw can measure 5 m (16 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).



KEY

1. Bank vole
2. Fin whale (**loudest animal sound**)
3. Harp seal
4. Harbour seal
5. Reindeer
6. Willow ptarmigan
7. Lemming
8. Moose (**largest deer**)
9. Red squirrel
10. Hare
11. Red fox (**largest fox**)
12. Atlantic cod
13. Bottlenose dolphin (**highest jump by a dolphin**)
14. Brown bear (**most subspecies for a bear**)
15. Barn owl
16. Grey partridge
17. Roe deer
18. Grouse
19. Western capercaillie
20. Chamois
21. Iberian lynx
22. Bowhead whale
23. Osprey
24. Wild boar
25. Green frog
26. Catshark
27. White stork
28. Pine marten
29. European bison
30. Grey wolf (**largest canid**)
31. Noble deer
32. Gopher
33. Seagull
34. Mediterranean monk seal

Rarest seal

The Mediterranean monk seal, so-called because it's 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.

