

On the usefulness and harmfulness of owls

Few bird species are so widespread and well-known in the northern hemisphere as owls (our special focus is on the *Uralian owl*). Ancient beliefs have long been attached to them, representing beneficial and evil characteristics. The owl was the attribute of the Greek goddess, Pallas Athene / Roman Minerva, and has had numerous representations in art ever since. Finno-Ugric languages have several proverbs with owls in them.

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