

MONSTROUS LAIR: OWLBEAR NEST

Monstrous Lair: Owlbear Nest provides you—the busy, time-crunched GM—with the details to effortlessly bring to life the owlbear’s nests in your campaign.

Are you a busy GM? Does session prep take too long? Do you never have time to work on the cool little details that can bring your adventures, dungeons and campaign to life? This short, focused compilation gives you, the time-crunched GM, the tools to effortlessly add verisimilitude and detail to your dungeons. Use the material herein either before or during play and bask in your players’ adulation.

CREDITS

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USING THIS PRODUCT

Designed specifically for you, the busy GM, these tables can be used both before or during gameplay. They exist to help you breathe life into a owlbear’s nest and are compatible with published modules or your own adventures. Adding depth and verisimilitude to your games helps to bring the world alive in the players’ minds which helps with their (hopefully willing) suspension of disbelief.

The tables appear in the order you’ll likely need them.

- **What’s Going On?** The owlbears are probably not just sitting around waiting for intruders. Use this table, to determine what they are doing when the PCs arrive. Remember, the PCs’ actions may render some of the entries moot—particularly if the owlbears are aware of intruders.
- **Notable Features:** Use this table, to determine the owlbear nest’s notable feature(s). This feature is so obvious, the PCs automatically notice it. Only reveal information in brackets if a PC discovers it in some way.
- **Minor Features:** Use this table, to determine the owlbear nest’s minor feature(s). The feature might be so obvious the PCs automatically spot it; alternatively, the PCs may have to make an easy skill check to notice the feature. Only reveal information in brackets if a PC discovers it in some way.
- **Owlbear Appearance:** Use this table, to generate the owlbear’s unique appearance and other characteristics.

Roll on the relevant table and use the result to spark your creativity. Reroll or modify any inappropriate results. The tables make several assumptions:

1. You already have a map of the area, or will be designing one “on the fly”.
2. You know what lurks in the area and have all the stat blocks.
3. You will roll once on each table; however, in particularly large areas you could use multiple rolls on the Notable Features or Minor Features.



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OWLBEAR'S NEST

Owlbears are a staple of low-level adventures. There is nothing more frightening for neophyte adventurers than facing down this mad mixture of bear and owl.

When owlbears aren't hunting, they retreat to their nests, making it one of the most likely place for adventurers to encounter them. While owlbears have animal intelligence, they are cunning and aggressive, especially when it comes to protecting their nests (or young).

WHAT'S GOING ON?

1. A mated pair of owlbears have a live deer trapped in the nest. One of owlbears readies a fatal blow.
2. Six eggs are in various states of hatching, with one baby owlbear fully emerged from its egg. The owlbears' father stands guard over the eggs.
3. A lone owlbear stands over the corpse of its mate. Its mournful cries are a mixture of growls and shrieks.
4. The owlbear drinks from a water-filled depression.
5. After coughing loudly, this owlbear spits out a bone lodged in its throat.
6. This owlbear is in the process of digging a hole, which is already two-foot deep.
7. A pair of owlbears are locked in mortal combat, while a third looks on. All attack those who disturb them.
8. The owlbear scrutinizes a skull resting in its paw.
9. This owlbear is scratching its back vigorously against a tree (or cavern wall, as appropriate to its nest).
10. The owlbear oversees its younglings hunting voles.
11. This owlbear is preening its feathers.
12. Sleeping soundly, this owlbear is curled up around the remains of a badger.

NOTABLE FEATURES

1. This cavern holds a dried-out river bed which carved out an opening underground.
2. Several partially eaten corpses of wolves, deer and so on are strewn around the nest.
3. A rope bridge connects two ledges above the nest.
4. A tightly packed thicket of trees only allows one easy entrance to the owlbear nest.
5. A discoloured door shape covers the rightmost wall, making it easy to discover the not-so-secret door granting access deeper into the cave system.
6. Fissures crisscross this location. A disused nest rests precariously at the edge of a steep drop.
7. Steel plates cover the cavern's floor. The owlbear has obviously scratched at the plates.
8. A pool of brackish water sits adjacent to the owlbear nest. It sees use as a bathing site for the resident.
9. Quartz crystals jut from this cavern's floor and walls. The nest sits atop a smoothed-out chunk of crystal.
10. A ledge, ten feet from the ground, surrounds the entire cavern hosting the nest.
11. Vents in the ground eject steam every few minutes. The owlbear seems nonplussed by this.
12. The nest is built atop an ancient open grave. Bones taken from the pile of skeletons add to the feathers and twigs comprising the nest.

MINOR FEATURES

1. A blue speckled egg sits among the brown and white owlbear eggs. On closer inspection, the speckles reveal themselves to be tiny sapphires.
2. Three half-eaten toadstools, brown with white speckles, have been discarded near the nest. (If eaten, the toadstools induce hallucinations.)
3. Egg fragments line this filthy nest. (The eggs hatched four weeks ago.)
4. Bones from different creatures have been arranged into an approximation of an owlbear.
5. Crates sitting on the cavern's floor have numerous scratches, but it appears the owlbear has been unable to break into them.
6. A skull with elongated molars suggests the owlbear killed a werewolf or vampire.
7. The meat has been stripped from the bones of this seven-foot long fish.
8. A bloody scarf with a distinctive red and yellow angular pattern is part of the nest.
9. Fresh, colourful flowers ring the nest's exterior.
10. Tucked in a partially hidden corner is a neatly stacked pile of smooth, shiny rocks. One of the rocks is a semi-precious stone worth a modest amount of gold.
11. Several twigs line the entrance to the nest. (Hidden twigs are positioned to alert the owlbears within.)
12. The half-shredded remains of a table and four matching chairs lie in this chamber's corner.

OWLBEAR APPEARANCE

1. This owlbear has a scar running down the left side of its face and crossing its left eye, rendering it blind in that eye (this does not affect the owlbear in combat).
2. This owlbear has a pale, heart-shaped owl's head and is missing the ear tufts common to owlbears.
3. This owlbear is missing all its feathers, giving it bald patches on its head and upper body.
4. Entrails from a recent kill cover this owlbear's fur.
5. This comparatively diminutive owlbear has a patch of golden fur on its chest resembling a rising sun.
6. The owlbear has a spiked collar and a pair of spiked bands around its wrists. These devices inflict additional damage at the GM's discretion.
7. Stark white polar bear fur contrasts with this owlbear's brown feathers. (The owlbear gains a minor bonus to hiding and sneaking in snowy areas).
8. This owlbear has a head with mostly white feathers, mixed with a handful of black feathers. The feather pattern continues along its shoulders, before giving way to a brown bear's fur.
9. The owlbear has a pair of feathery flaps between its upper arms and chest, but they don't provide it with any ability to fly.
10. This owlbear is smaller than usual and has a ridge of white feathers above its eyes. It hisses and makes a rattling sound (similar to a rattlesnake).
11. Someone must have placed this suit of chainmail on the owlbear. The chainmail has seen better days.
12. This owlbear's body has a pattern of black and white fur reminiscent of a panda.

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