OUTSIDE THE LAIR

1	A deep furrow in the ground leads from the nest, as if the owlbear only uses this path.
2	An abandoned cabin stands by the nest's entrance.
3	A path of feathers leads to the nest, with only a scant few lying off the path.
4	Twigs line the entrance to the nest. (Hidden twigs are positioned to alert the owlbears within.)
5	A dense thicket of trees allows but one easy route to the owlbear's nest.
6	A pool of brackish water sits near the owlbear nest; the owlbear sometimes bathes within.
7	A tall oak tree (or obsidian column, in a subterranean lair) marks the entrance to the nest. The owlbear uses it as a scratching post.
8	Two signs reading, "Avoid yon foul beast," and pointing to the nest warns of something foul lurking inside.
9	A pile of rotting carcasses sits outside the nest, as though the owlbear was obsessed with tidying its lair.
10	A 10-foot-wide, 20-foot-deep pit rings the entrance, seemingly meant to keep the beast from escaping.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

1	The owlbear has a wounded live deer trapped in its nest.
2	The owlbear is watching over six eggs; the largest is in the process of hatching.
3	The 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	The owlbear coughs, and the sound echoes through the lair, before the beast spits out a bone.
6	The owlbear is industriously digging a hole, which is already two-foot deep.
7	The owlbear is busy chasing a rat around its nest, while the frantic rat scuttles about trying to escape.
8	The owlbear scrutinises a skull it holds in its paw.
9	The owlbear is vigorously scratching its back against the wall, and oblivious to intruders.
10	The owlbear is deep in snore-wracked slumber.

MAJOR LAIR FEATURES

1	The nest surrounds a granite column reaching from floor to ceiling.
2	Several partially eaten corpses of wolves, deer and so on are strewn around the nest. The stench of blood and rot fills the air.
3	A old rope bridge connects two ledges above the nest.
4	Fissures crisscross the lair. A disused nest rests precariously at the edge of a steep drop.
5	Due to repeated blows from the owlbear, shattered stalactites (or saplings) litter the floor around its nest.
6	A ledge, ten feet from the ground, runs around the cavern walls.
7	Vents in the ground eject steam every few minutes. The owlbear ignores the jets of steam.
8	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.
9	A waterfall tumbles down the cavern's rear wall. Unlike the rest of the cavern, which is filthy, the waterfall and the area around it are pristine.
10	A narrow tunnel opens at the back of this cavern. Based on the lack of tracks, no owlbear has ventured into it.

MINOR LAIR FEATURES

1	A discoloured door shape mars the rightmost wall, making it easy to discover the not-so-secret door hidden therein. Beyond lies a deep network of caves.
2	The half-shredded remains of a table and four matching chairs lie in this chamber's corner.
3	Egg fragments line this filthy nest. (The eggs hatched four weeks ago, but the young are nowhere in evidence.)
4	Bones from different creatures are arranged on the floor in a rough approximation of an owlbear skeleton.
5	Three half-eaten toadstools, brown with white speckles, lie discarded near the nest. (If eaten, the toadstools induce hallucinations.)
6	A humanoid's skull with elongated canine teeth suggests the owlbear killed a werewolf or vampire.
7	The flesh has been stripped from the bones of this seven-foot long fish.
8	Among the half-eaten carcasses are incongruously prime cuts of meat.
9	Fresh, colourful flowers decorate the owlbear's bed. (The decoration is too carefully and intricately done for a half-mad owlbear to execute.)
10	All the bones lining this nest come from wolves and the like. Judging from the profusion of bones, the owlbear has eaten well recently. (Some goblin bones are intermingled with the rest–the owlbear recently dined on a pair of wolf-riding goblin scouts).

OWLBEAR'S APPEARANCE

D10 RESULT A scar runs down the left side of this owlbear's face and across its left eye, rendering it blind in that eye (this does not affect the owlbear in combat). 1 2 The owlbear has a pale, heart-shaped owl's head and is missing the ear tufts common to its kind. Its thick but ragged fur is jet black. 3 The owlbear is missing all its feathers, giving it bald patches on its head and upper body. It almost looks like a (homicidal) partially plucked chicken. 4 This elderly owlbear has grey and white fur. It is missing a talon, from its right claw. A patch of golden fur on the owlbear's chest resembles a rising sun. Some religious believers may pay much for such an owlbear fur cloak. 5 6 A rusty spiked collar encircles the owlbear's neck; it also wears a pair of rusty spiked gauntlets. 7 The owlbear has a head of mostly white feathers, mixed with a handful of black feathers. The feather pattern continues along its shoulders, before giving way to a brown fur. 8 Owl-like talons rather than bear claws sprout from the owlbear's feet. It hops when moving, but this does not slow it down. The talons make a distinctive clicking sound, on hard floors. 9 A pair of feathery flaps akin to wings grow from this owlbear's back, but it cannot fly. It might be able to glide short distances, though. 10 Pustules and open sores cover this owlbear's back. The pustules burst (possibly spreading disease) when the owlbear is struck with a weapon.

TREASURE

10	A carved, jade figurine depicting a bear sits next to an intricate ivory carving of an owl.
9	A bent staff is hidden among the gnarled branches comprising the nest.
8	Among the rusted swords surrounding the nest as a makeshift fence is a two-handed sword in perfect order.
7	The owlbear wears a golden necklace with five small, imperfect pearls dangling from it.
6	A silver dinner setting is almost unrecognisable thanks to the filth encrusting it.
5	A battered, but intact and locked, box contains an ornate carved dagger.
4	A blue speckled egg sits among the brown and white owlbear eggs. On close inspection, the speckles reveal themselves to be tiny sapphires.
3	Three brown eggs surround a white egg. (The white egg contains a cockatrice.)
2	A severed, rotting left hand buried in the nest bears a golden ring (worth 20 gp) on its index finger.
1	Tucked in a corner is a neat pile of smooth, shiny rocks. One of the rocks is a small translucent green gemstone (a bloodstone worth 50 gp).

TRINKETS & TRASH

1	A bloody scarf with a distinctive red and yellow angular pattern is part of the nest.
2	A few broken beehives litter the nest's floor. One hive contains a small amount of honey.
3	The nest contains a wide selection of neckties, which are surprisingly unmarred.
4	A bear trap holds tufts of the owlbear's fur in its teeth. It seems the creature pried it open to escape.
5	A feather boa sized for a giant encircles the nest. The boa's feathers match the owlbear's.
6	Three hooves–remnants of a recent meal–still have horseshoes attached which are in excellent condition.
7	The owlbear has left a neatly stacked pile of books on a variety of subjects unmolested.
8	A leather girdle, stretched nearly to its breaking point, is among the nest's detritus.
9	A pair of broken oars, evidently used in (failed) defence against the owlbear, lie discarded near the nest.
10	Spheres of varying composition (glass, metal and wood) and sizes are scattered throughout the lair. The owlbear has gnawed on the spheres made of softer materials.

CREDITS

Design	Mike Welham
OGL	Monstrous Lair #01: Owlbear Nest. ©Raging Swan Press 2021; Author: Mike Welham.