



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

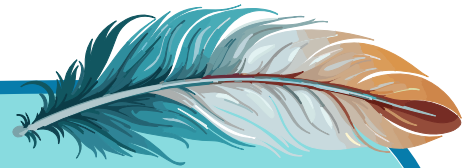
OWL FUN!

**Activity Guide for Kids
and Families to Learn
About Owls**





OWL FUN!



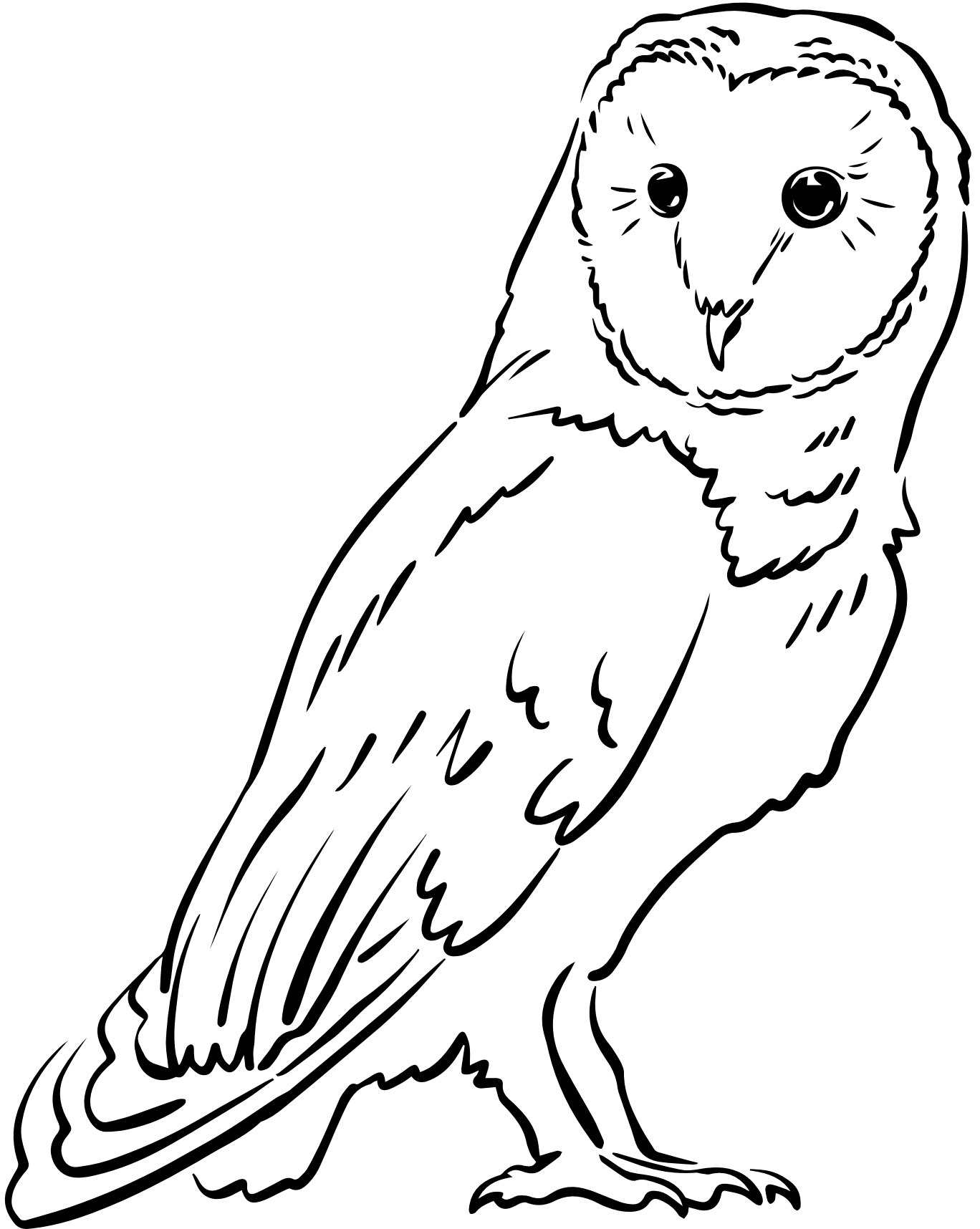
These activities are for elementary school-aged kids and include the following:

- Coloring pages
- Word search
- Go on an owl prowl
- How to draw an owl
- Create a “take action” poster
- How to build an owl box
- *Ranger Rick* videos and crafts
- Owl photo gallery



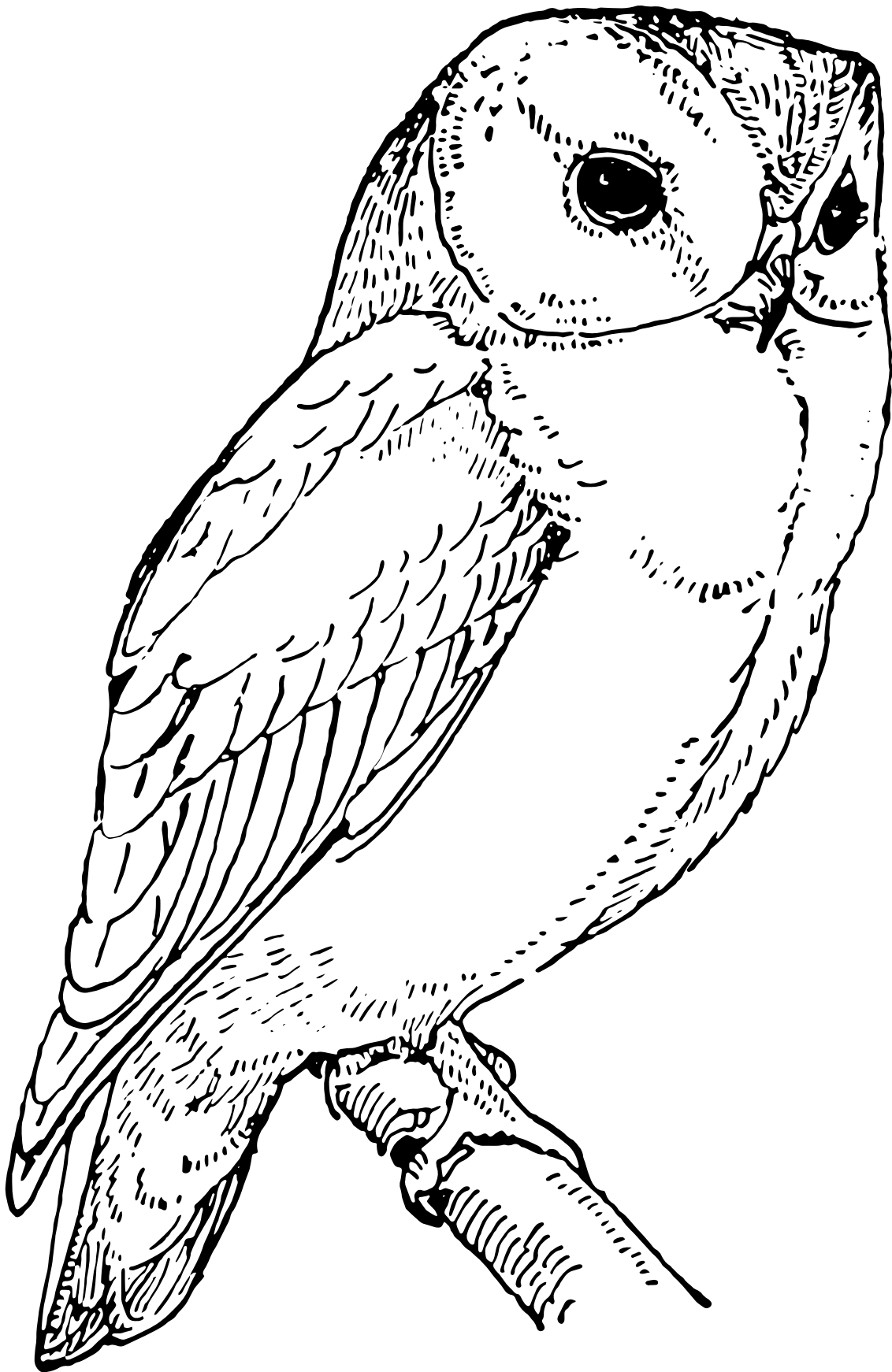
American Barn Owl

The barn owl is a nocturnal (nighttime) hunter, it has silent flight and extraordinary hearing.



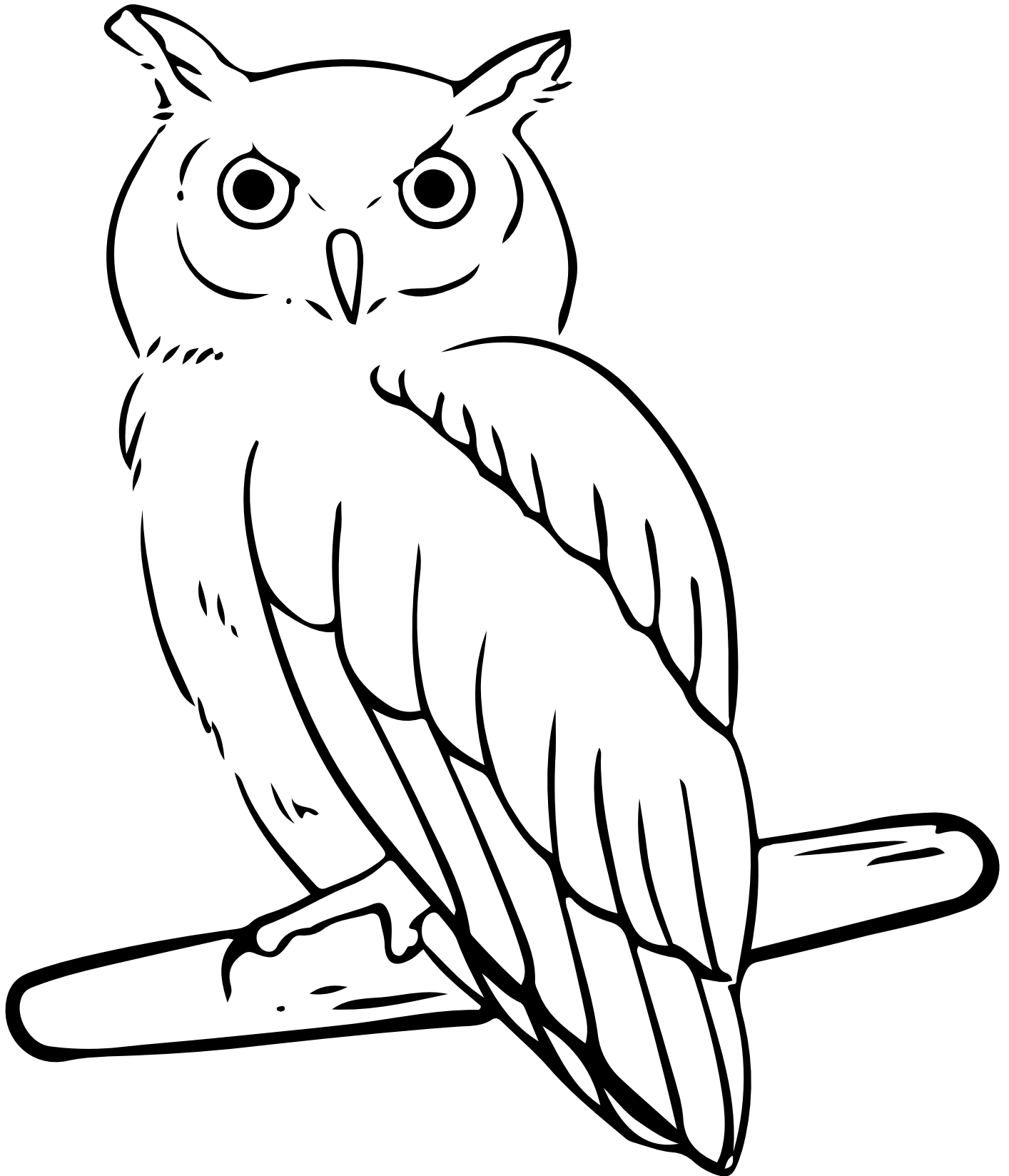
Barred Owl

The barred owl is a large, woodland owl that is easily recognizable by its "Who cooks for you?" call.



Great Horned Owl

The "horns" on the great horned owl's head aren't ears or horns. They are tufts of feathers called plumicorns. They provide excellent camouflage by mimicking the appearance of broken tree branches.



OWL FUN!



W	O	U	S	C	T	R	E	E	P	E	D	O	L	I	G
A	S	N	O	W	Y	I	T	E	F	I	N	S	D	O	R
M	O	S	S	C	O	O	P	H	E	A	O	N	S	J	E
C	A	C	T	U	S	C	E	E	N	T	W	C	T	O	A
E	G	O	B	E	A	P	N	I	C	Y	L	W	I	S	T
R	L	L	M	U	R	N	O	U	E	I	Y	S	N	R	H
H	E	N	I	P	R	N	O	T	E	D	N	C	G	A	O
E	A	O	T	A	R	R	S	H	T	T	E	R	R	N	R
A	P	T	B	A	Y	O	O	C	B	E	L	E	A	O	N
S	P	S	C	F	I	W	T	W	O	N	D	E	Y	A	E
V	i	G	R	E	A	T	E	H	I	O	E	C	S	E	D
A	N	B	A	R	R	E	D	R	U	N	T	H	V	R	A
B	O	N	N	E	T	H	E	A	D	H	G	H	L	Y	Z

Barn

Barred

Burrowing

Cactus

Great horned

Owl

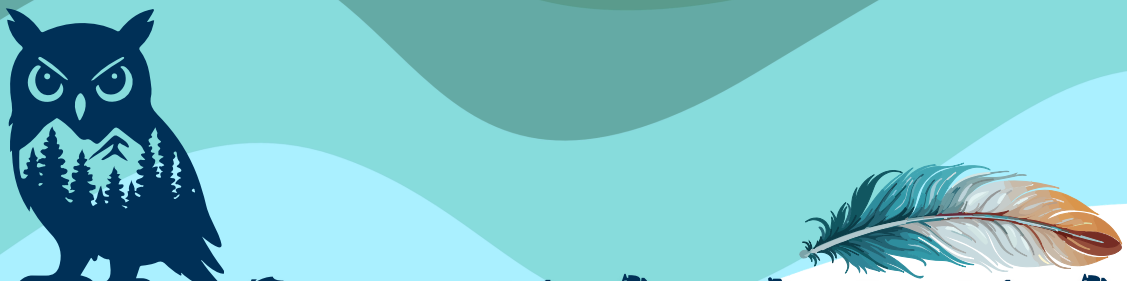
Screech

Snowy

Spotted

Tree





GO ON AN OWL PROWL

Find out what owls live in your neighborhood

- Explore: Search online or at your local library to find out what species of owls live in your area!
- Count: Find out how many species live in your community.
- Search: Find out where to look for owls.
- Locate: When you hear an owl calling, remember the spot.
- Identify: Practice identifying owls by their photos and sounds.
- Listen: Be very quiet and listen for owls and all of the night time sounds.

[Access activity](#)
[online for more tips!](#)



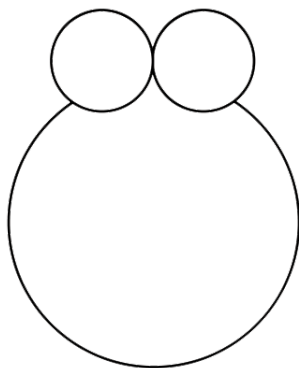


LET'S DRAW AN OWL

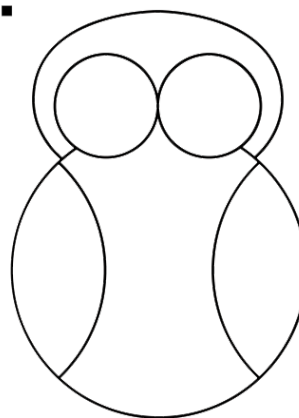
What you need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers

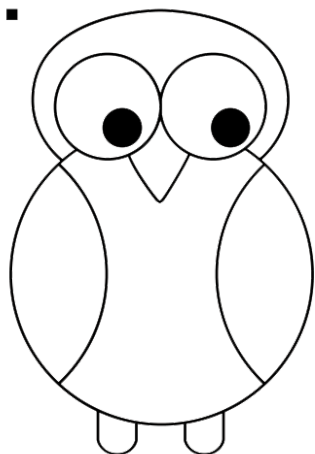
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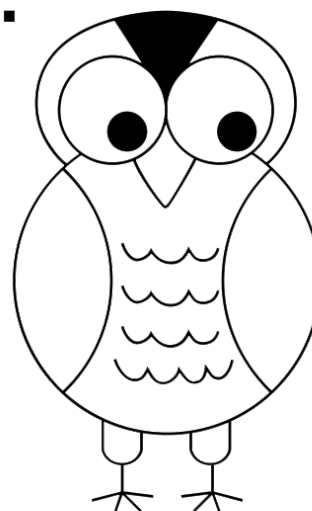
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OWL FUN!



Quick Facts About Owls:

- There are 19 difference species of owls in North America
- There are about 250 species of owls in the world
- Not all owls hoot! Some owls make hissing sounds, or whinny like a horse
- Owls cannot turn their head all the way around, they can rotate their necks a maximum of 270 degrees

Owls play an important role in a healthy ecosystem. They help control the rodent (e.g., mice, rats, etc.) and large insect populations (e.g., beetles, moths, etc.), which reduce the damage done to crops when there is an abundance of these animals. Additionally, controlling the “pest” population also decreases the farmer’s need to use pesticides on their crops. One of the key threats to owls is habitat destruction. Practices such as logging, deforestation, and urban development destroy forests and other owl habitats, which impacts their ability to find safe spaces to raise young and to successfully hunt. Owls can also suffer secondary poisoning when they eat mice or rats that have consumed poisonous pest control baits (anticoagulant rodenticides), colloquially known as rat poison.

Review the following actions to learn how you can help protect owls and other wildlife. Choose one action and create a poster to educate and engage your family and friends.

ACTION IDEAS

- Share fun facts about owls with your family and friends.
- Leave dead trees standing (if it is safe to do so) for nesting and perching.
- Leave areas in your yard or in the community un-mowed to provide homes for owl prey.
- Install owl boxes in your yard or in the community.
- Explore other ways to deter pests from entering homes or other structures, and forego the use of poisonous pest control baits.
- Advocate for laws that protect endangered owl species and other wildlife including the Endangered Species Act and the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.

CREATE A "TAKE ACTION" POSTER

Choose an action and design a poster to educate and engage your family and friends to help owls and other wildlife.

When designing your poster, consider including the following information:

- Drawing or photo of an owl or other animal you are taking action for
- Text that describes the action you want people to take (e.g., build an owl box, leave dead trees standing, etc.)

You can use the template on the next page for your poster, or create your own!







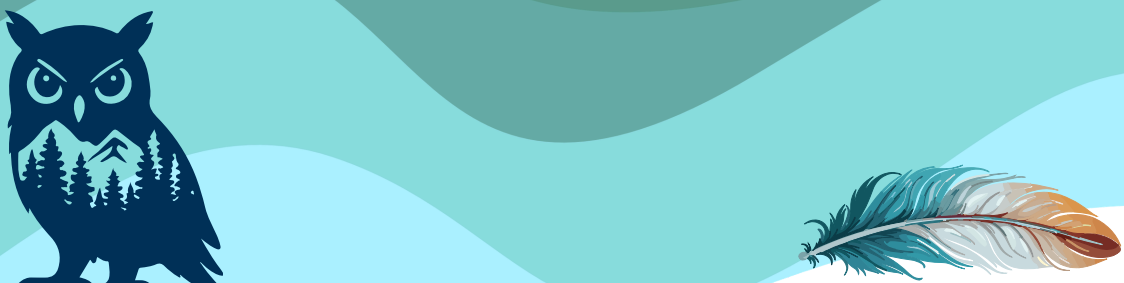
BUILD AN OWL BOX

Help Provide a Place to Raise Owlets (Baby Owls!)

Explore online or at your local library to find out what species of owls live in your area! For many species of owls finding a suitable cavity to nest in determines whether or not it can live in the area. You can find nest box plans for all kinds of owls and other birds at [Cornell Lab's NestWatch](#).

To make the nesting box safer and more suitable for owls, consider the following:

- Wood is the best building material. Avoid using metal as it gets too hot when exposed to the sun.
- Follow the directions for size, height of entrance hole, size of entrance hole, drainage for the bottom of the box, and ventilation.
- The roof should be slanted to shed water and there should be at least a two-inch overhang to protect the entrance hole.
- Place the box where there is no danger of cats or other predators or attach a galvanized tin cat-guard on the pole or tree.
- Put a hinge on the roof or otherwise make it easy to access the nest for cleaning after the birds are gone. Don't disturb the nest while the birds are in it!
- Put the box at least 10' off the ground – 15' to 30' is better. You can attach it to a tree or to a building (best location is specific to each owl species).



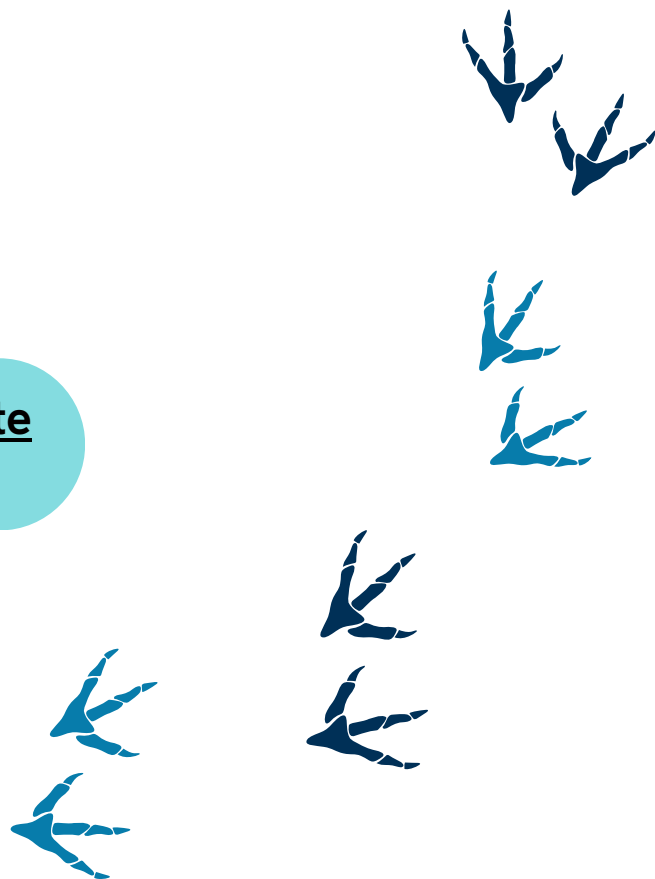
OWLS AND RANGER RICK

Learn more about owls and get creative:

- Video: [Watch an owl turn its head](#)
- Video: [How do burrowing owls scare animals away?](#)
- Craft: [Pine cone snowy owls](#)
- Craft: [Paper plate owl](#)
- Craft: [Owl door hanger](#)
- Craft: [Owl mask](#)
- Recipe: [Rice cake snowy owl](#)

[Visit Ranger Rick website](#)

rangerrick.org



OWL PHOTO GALLERY

Owl species featured on the coloring pages

American Barn Owl

fun fact source:

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage
and Endangered Species
Program



Photo credit: Bill Lindenmeyer

Photo credit: Pamela Dimeler



Barred Owl

fun fact source:

CornellLab All About Birds

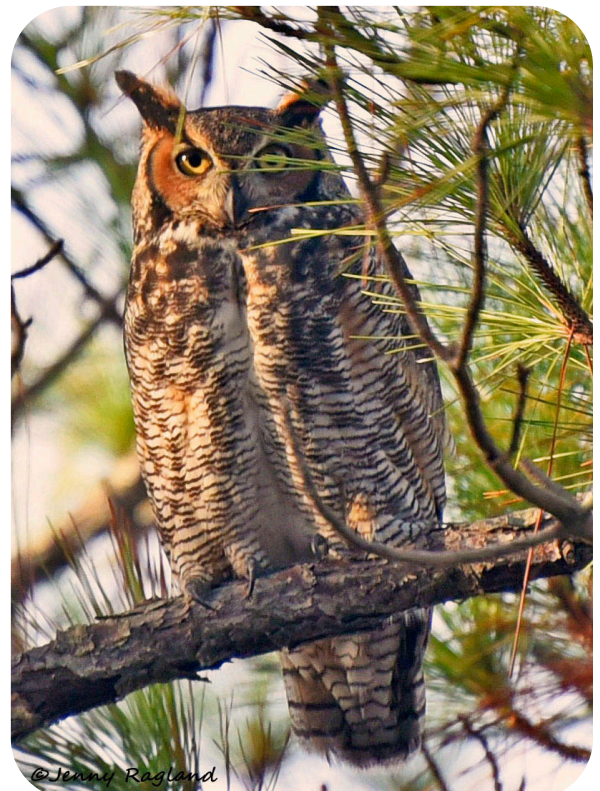


Photo credit: Jenny Ragland

Great Horned Owl

fun fact source:

CornellLab All About Birds

