



NATURE ACTIVITY BOOK

OWLS OF EASTERN NEBRASKA

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

COMMON EASTERN NEBRASKA OWL SPECIES:



Barred Owl



**Eastern
Screech Owl**



**Great Horned
Owl**



MEET SAWYER, THE EASTERN SCREECH OWL:

Sawyer is one of our owl ambassadors at the NRD. He helps educate the public on the importance of taking care of our natural resources. These owls have excellent camouflage and often times go unseen, though, they live in our neighborhoods!

LESS COMMON EASTERN NEBRASKA OWL SPECIES:



Long-Eared Owl



Short-eared Owl



Snowy Owl

MEET FINN, THE BARN OWL:



Finn is our other owl ambassador at the NRD. Barn owls are widely recognized by their heart shaped face! Not only is the heart shaped facial disk cute but it also assists in funneling sound to their ears hidden behind their feathers.



Barn Owl

OWL ADAPTATIONS: WORD SEARCH

Find the owl adaptations hidden below in this word search.
The words could be up, down, across, diagonal, or backwards.



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

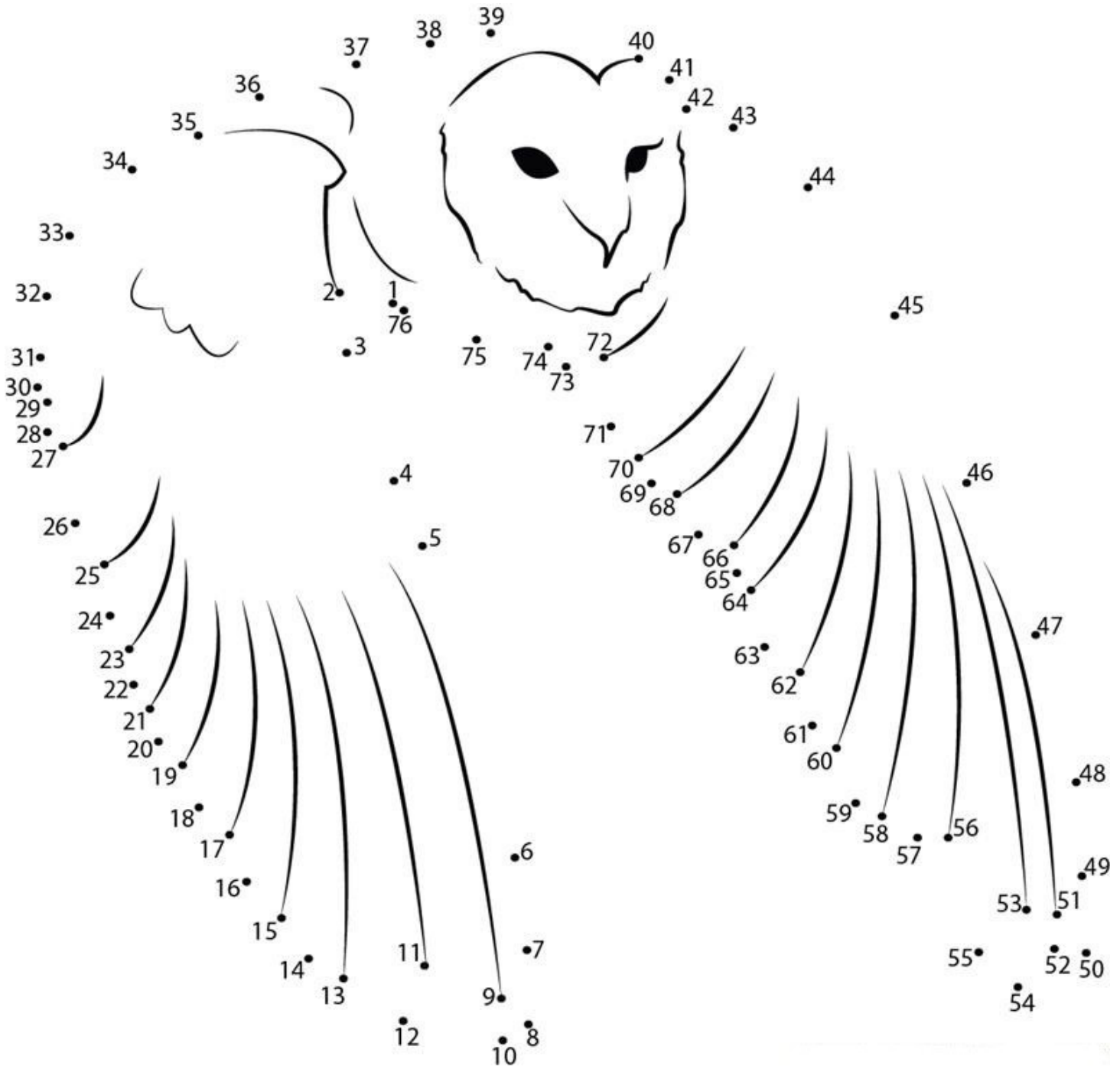
Talon
Feathers
Beak
Owlet

Camouflage
Carnivore
Pellet
Hunt

Facial Disk
Silent Flight
Asymmetrical Ears
Roost

COMPLETE THE OWL, DOT-TO-DOT:

Can you connect the dots to form a picture of this Barn Owl? Grab your crayons and color him in after completing the dots!



The tips of an owl's feathers are comb-like, allowing the "swoosh" sound of flight to be dampened. This aids in silent flight!

OWLS DIETS:

Can you unscramble these words? Each word is a prey animal that might become dinner to an owl!

stecisn _____
eimc _____
star _____
kasne _____
veslo _____
olmes _____
zdlasir _____
mrreaothsw _____
rewsh _____
abbrit _____
bsat _____



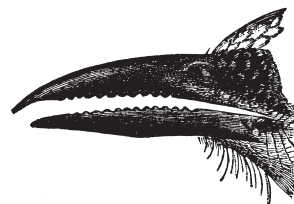
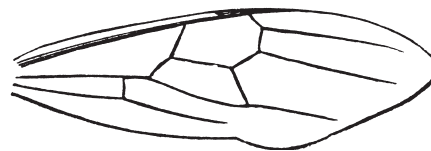
A Barred Owl eats a squirrel for dinner in the safety of a tree.

Did you know that owls eat their prey whole? That's right they'll eat an entire mouse, bones and fur too! Their bodies are unable to digest the bones and fur and they regurgitate those items in the form of a pellet, usually a few times each day!

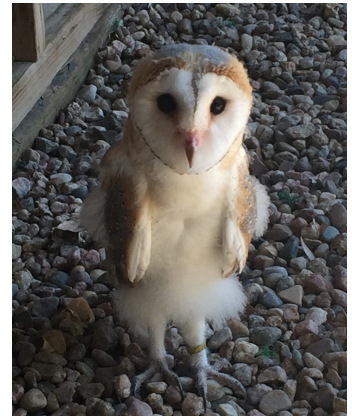


Owl Pellet

Can you guess what this owl ate based on what we found in this pellet?

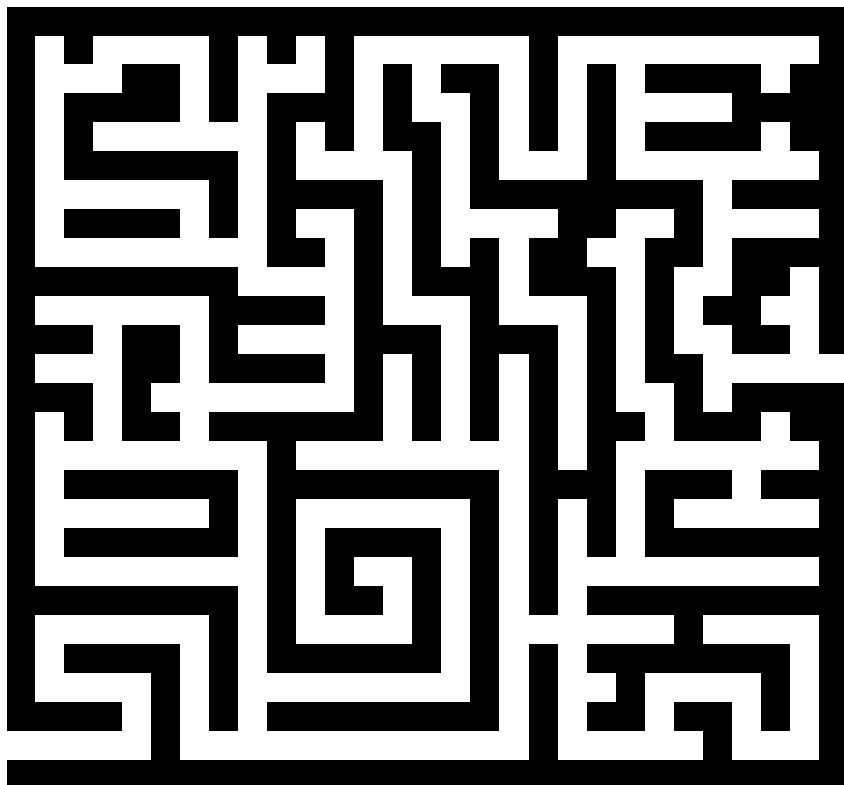


OWLS LIFE SPAN:



Baby owls are called **Owlets**! After hatching out of an egg, they rely heavily on their parents for care. Depending on the species, owlets will mature and move to their own home range in as little as 3 months!

Can you help this Owlet through the maze to find his mother?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Not all owls hoot, depending on the species some owls make screeching or hissing sounds. Some even sound similar to cats meowing or dogs barking!
- Owls have eyes that are tubed shaped, giving them a strong sense of sight but lacking the ability to roll their eyes in their socket like a human!
- The weight of an owl is the easiest way to tell females from males. Females are generally a few ounces heavier.
- Hearing is an owl's best sense! In fact, owls can catch their prey hidden under plants or snow based on hearing alone.



TALONS:



Owl claws are called talons. Talons are used for perching and hunting and are incredibly powerful! Great Horned Owls talons can squeeze up to 500 pounds per square inch!

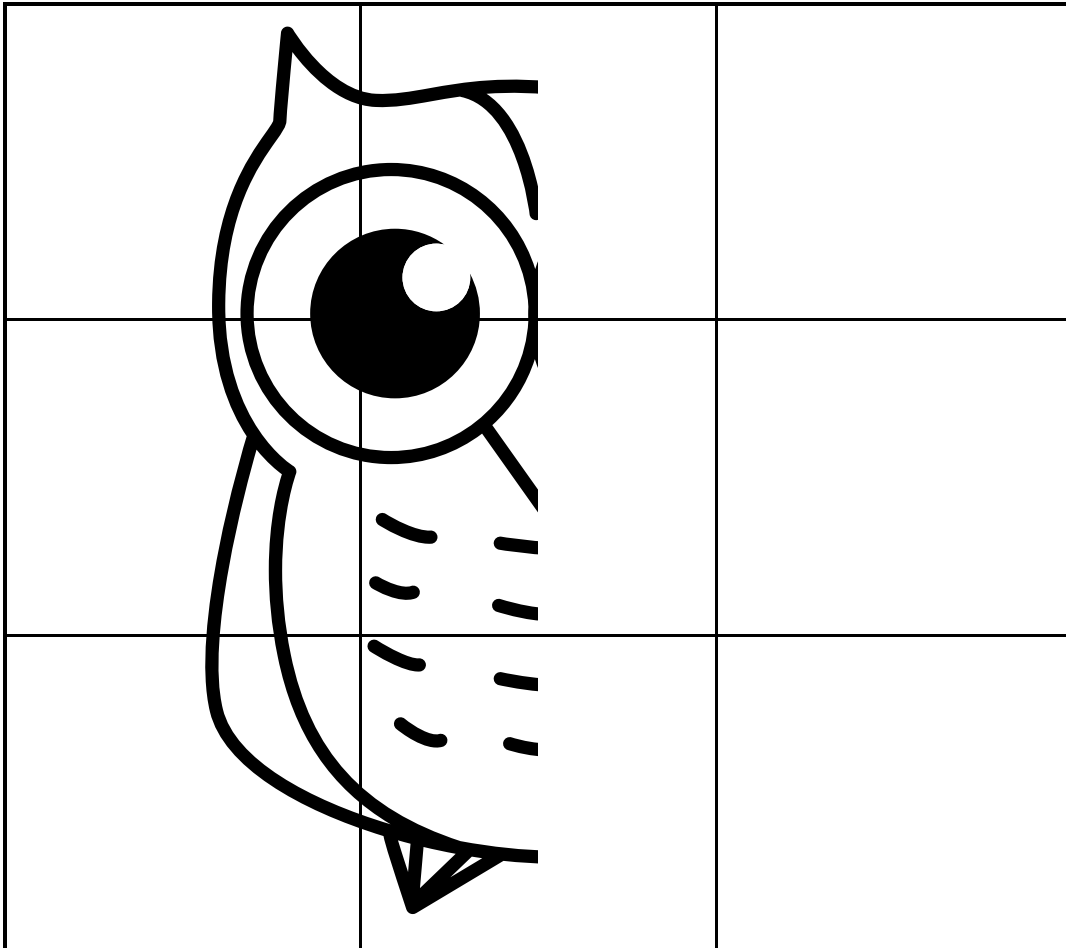
HEAD ROTATION:

Have you ever been told that an owl can turn its head all the way around? While that's not entirely true, it is close. Owls can turn their heads 270° aided by the 14 bones in their neck!



COMPLETE THE OWL :

Put your artistic skills to the test by completing the other half of the owl below!



Want to learn how your school, organization, or club can schedule a free owl presentation or request owl pellets for dissection? Contact Kaylyn Kelley at kkelley@papionrd.org to learn more.



**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**
Finding Solutions Today for a Secure Tomorrow.

