



Northern Hawk Owl

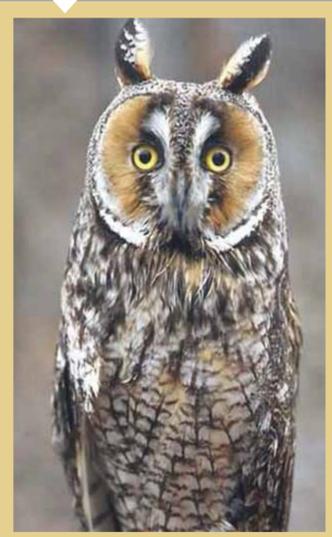
This medium sized owl (around 16" tall), has a noticeably long tail and lives year round in our northern coniferous forest. Unlike most owls this one often **hunts during the day**.

Photo © Denise Dupras • OneWomansNature.net

▶ **Owls often swallow their prey whole, but can't digest the "tough bits."** Many hours after each meal they cough up a neat pellet of bones and fur, which helps us figure out what they're eating!

Long & Short-eared Owls

These uncommon owls are rarely seen. The Long-eared (below left) is slimmer and smaller than a Great Horned and prefers dense woods and evergreens near open areas. The Short-eared (below middle) nests on the ground in prairies and open fields and is especially vulnerable to **habitat loss**.



Long-eared Owl photo © Sergei Belski



Short-eared Owl photo © Steve Round



Boreal Owl

Just 10" tall this owl of boreal forests is rarely seen. They have big heads for their size and prefer to nest in old woodpecker holes. Besides mice, these little owls also hunt **insects and bats**.

Photo © Jerry Pruett

More OWLS Of Minnesota

Snowy Owl

This impressive owl usually only appears in Minnesota during the winter when some leave their nesting grounds on the tundra, perhaps coming south in search of food. They are large birds, 24" tall with a 52" wingspan. Juveniles and females often have heavy dark banding while mature males can be almost pure white.

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Great Gray Owl

Minnesota's biggest owl is 29" tall with a 57" wingspan, yet only weighs in at around **2.5 lbs** – usually less than a Great Horned or Snowy Owl! Northern Minnesota is one of the few places south of Alaska where you can find the Great Gray, Northern Hawk, & Boreal Owls. Birders from other states and countries visit here each winter just to see them.

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Owls don't build their own nests. They use tree cavities or nests abandoned by other birds.

Let dead trees stand when possible!

Facial disk feathers form parabolic disks, funneling sound to the ears.

Some owls don't even need to see their prey to catch it ... they can hunt by sound alone!

