

Owls

Majestic, mysterious, and magnificent predators, owls hunt mostly at night and roost during the day. If you hear a mob of chickadees or crows, you may see a roosting owl nearby. Of the more than 200 species of owls around the world, eight regularly occur in Massachusetts. Try these activities and then, for more fun with owls, visit www.massaudubon.org/go.



Parent/Teacher Note

Skills Learned: Concepts—habitat, anatomical adaptations, predator-prey relationships, food webs, and life cycles
Skills—Observation and role-playing

Habitat Hunt

Search your backyard or neighborhood. Can you find any of these things that are part of an owl's habitat?

- A small animal (a chipmunk or mouse) for an owl to eat
- A place where a small animal could be safe from a hungry owl's reach
- An open area where an owl might hunt for food
- A spot where an owl could roost, such as a dense evergreen tree



Heads Up

How far can you turn your head? Owls, with 14 different bones in their neck, can turn their heads nearly three-quarters of the way around. People, with just 7 different neck bones, can typically turn their heads around only about halfway.

Owl Prowl

Go out on a winter night and listen for owls calling. Ask a birdwatcher to help you pick the best time and location. If you want to go owling with a Mass Audubon naturalist, check out our owl programs (see link below).

www.massaudubon.org/owls

- Learn about upcoming Mass Audubon owl walks, our snowy owl project, and species of owls found in Massachusetts
- Get instructions for building an owl nesting box
- Listen to owl calls or report sightings of owls

Spring into Sustainability!

We often hear about the need to conserve energy, save water, and become more "green." It is important, it is up to us, and it can be lots of fun! During March and April, Mass Audubon sanctuaries will offer programs focusing on sustainability and living a "greener" life. A few of the highlights: Boston Nature Center, Broadmoor in Natick, Joppa Flats in Newburyport, and Wellfleet Bay will offer free, self-guided, green-building tours. And at the North River sanctuary in Marshfield, children can become a power ranger for the day and learn simple ways to help care for the earth at Earth Day Extravaganza. This spring, join us and see how simple and fun it is to be green.

For more information on sustainability programs being offered across the state, visit www.massaudubon.org/sustainable.

Do you have a personal sustainability success story? If so, post it on our Green Blog at www.massaudubon.org/blogs.