

OWLS



Owls swoop silently through the night sky to feed on rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, and large insects. We have **four** types of owls at the Oregon Caves National Monument – Saw-Whet Owls, Spotted Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Screech Owls.



Saw-whet Owl

The **Saw-Whet Owl** is a tiny, tuftless owl rarely seen unless found roosting in dense young evergreens or thickets. Its call is usually a series of short whistles.



Spotted Owl

The **Spotted Owls** have large dark eyes and puffy round heads. They are endangered because they live in mature old growth forests – many of which have been cut down. Their call is a series of sharp, high pitched hoots usually in groups of three.



Great Horned Owl

Great Horned Owls are twice the size of a crow and can lift small mammals as large as a skunk. They live in forests, woodlots, and streamsides, and open country. The male makes a series of hoots – Hoo! Hu-hu-hu, Hoo! Hoo! The female hoots are higher and shorter in sequence.

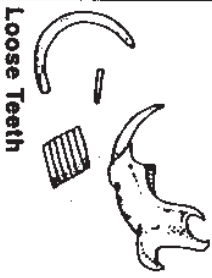
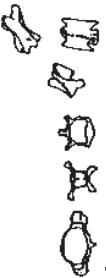


Screech Owl

Screech Owls are the common, small “eared” owl of towns, orchards, and woodlots. They are also found in wooded canyons. Their song is a quavering whistle. Screech owls are often the prey of spotted owls.

Owl Pellet

Owls eat their food without chewing. When their stomach is finished digesting the owl regurgitates the fur and bones in a small ball called an "owl pellet". Owl pellets can often be found under locations where owls roost. You can tell a lot about where they hunt by the type of bones you find in their pellets. The chart below provides some help in identifying the bones you may find.

	RODENTS	SHREWS	MOLES	BIRDS
skull				
jaw				
shoulder blades				
front legs				
hip				
hind legs				
rib				
vertebrae				

CATERPILAR LARVAE
AND COCOONS



CATERPILAR
DROPPINGS

