

# Owls of New England Field Guide Sheet



## Short-eared Owl 13-17"

Owl of open country, fields and marshes.  
Streaked colors;  
moth-like flight;  
Yellow eyes and dark facial disk.

Voice: a short sneezy bark.

Primary Prey: meadow voles and shore birds



## Barred Owl 17-24"

Large owl with bars across upper chest, stripes on breast,  
no ear tufts,  
large dark brown eyes.  
Voice: a musical *hoo hoo hu-hoo, hoo hoo hu-hoo.*

Primary Prey: meadow voles, shrews and deer mice



## Eastern Screech Owl 7-10"

Likes woodlands and shade trees.

Small owl with ear tufts,  
yellow eyes,

Reddish or grayish coloring.

Voice: mournful whinny or wail, tremulous.

Primary Prey: deer mice, voles, flying insects

## Barn Owl 14-20"

Distinctive pale, heart-shaped, monkey face.  
Small dark brown eyes, no ear tufts,  
pale underparts with no streaking.

Voice: a rasping screech.

Primary prey: meadow voles, mice, rats



## Long-Eared Owl 13-16"

Crow-sized owl.

Long ear tufts that stand up straight;

Vertical striping on chest;  
yellow eyes.

Voice: a low moaning *hoooo*, also a bark and cat-like whine.

Primary Prey: deer mice and meadow voles



## Snowy Owl 20-27"

Large white owl with some dark speckles,  
yellow eyes, no ear tufts.

Often active in the daytime perching on fence posts

Voice: a deep *whoo hoo hoo*

Primary prey: lemmings, meadow voles, snowshoe hare



## Great Horned owl 18-25"

A large owl with ear tufts, fine striping across the chest,  
White bib at throat, yellow eyes, heavy brow.

Voice: a deep, resonant *hoo, hoo-oo hoo hoo.*

Preferred Prey: rabbits and hares

## Northern Saw-whet Owl 7-8.5"

Very small owl, with no ear tufts, blotchy brown underparts.

Voice: a mechanical *hoop* repeated over and over (truck back-up beep)

Primary Prey: deer mice

