

Winter 2017–18

December–January–February

Nature Center

Monday – Friday
(winter hours)
9 am – 3:30 pm

Saturdays
9 am – 2 pm

Closed Sundays

Hiking Trails

6 am – 8 pm daily

Phone

414.527.0232

Address

6141 N. Hopkins Street
Milwaukee, WI 53209
1 block west of
Sherman Blvd.

Websites

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/
name/havenwoods/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/)
www.friendsofhavenwoods.org

Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to the Equal Opportunity Office, Washington, DC 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request. Please call 414.527.0232 for more information.



PUB-PR-585 REV 11/2017

Havenwoods State Forest

Step into the forest in early evening, and you might just encounter an owl waking up to start its day. Birders (or owlers!) have seen four kinds of owls at Havenwoods in recent years: great-horned owl (by far the most common), long-eared owl, eastern screech owl, and short-eared owl. Here are some tips for finding owls at Havenwoods and at other parks in the city.

follow the mob

Watch for small birds “picking” on large birds. This mobbing behavior seems to be a way for groups of small birds to drive large predators out of their territories. If you hear a group of crows cawing loudly and see them moving around in the treetops, look closely for an owl nearby.



look for owl pellets & whitewash

Look for pellets (read more about pellets on the last page) at the base of large evergreen trees. Check out tree trunks for white-wash (the thick, chalky, white excrement that owls produce).

find a feather

Owls can fly silently because their feathers are edged with soft fringes that break up the turbulence created when the wings beat. If you find large feathers in the woods, take a close look under a magnifier. Remember that bird feathers, along with all other bird parts are protected by federal law. You must have a special permit to possess them.

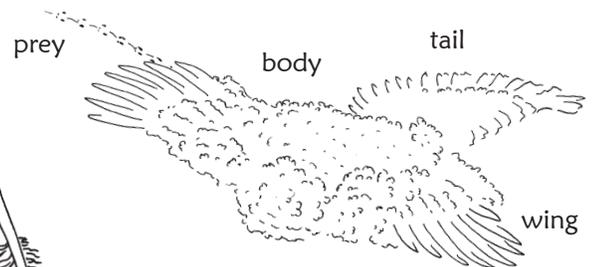


take an owl walk

Head out in late afternoon when light is fading. Wear “quiet” clothes and walk slowly. During the winter, you might hear owls calling during this time of day.

track down an owl

A rare, but thrilling, find is to come across an owl’s imprint in the snow. Look around for the tracks of mice, rabbits, or other possible prey animals.



eavesdrop!

Owls communicate through hoots, screeches, barks, cackles, and even mournful tremolos. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a wonderful website with songs and calls of all birds, including owls. With a little practice you will be ready to recognize all of our owls by their calls. While you are on the website, check out the nest cams!

Adult Hikes & Workshops

Adults and youth over 12 are invited to join a naturalist on these winter walks!

The Night Sky

January 13, 6:30 – 8 pm
(Saturday)

Join us on an almost moonless night to hike and look at the stars. We'll find the winter constellations and share some of the ancient legends about them.

Animal Magnetism

February 16, 7 – 8:30 pm (Friday)

Animals have their own versions of Valentine's Day. They attract their prospective mates with dances, songs, bright colors, and smells. Join us indoors for a program about what local animals do in search of mates, then meet outside for a campfire and hot chocolate.



Family Nature Hikes

Spend time with a naturalist on a family-friendly hike. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars, super-duper outdoor lookers, or other exploring tools to discover what's happening in nature.



Fire & Ice

December 2, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

How do animals survive our frozen winters? Discover who sleeps and who stays active, search for shelters they use, and check out some mammal furs to see how they keep the animals warm. Then we'll have a campfire in the woods with some hot chocolate.

Cold Case

January 6, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

Are you good at solving mysteries? Take a hike with us to find animal footprints, homes, scat, and feeding signs, and figure out who has been on the move. If the snow is deep enough, we will use Havenwoods' snowshoes.

Howling at the Moon

February 3, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
(Saturday)

Take a hike with us to discover the Forest in the dark. Look at the stars and listen to some star stories. We'll listen for owls and other animals of the night. We'll also howl at the moon and listen for coyotes howling back. If the snow is deep enough, we'll use Havenwoods' snowshoes.

GO! Discover

On the second and third Saturdays of each month, you and your family, friends, or youth group will find special activities set up in the building. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.

Winter PastTimes

December 9 & 16, 9:00 – 2:00
(Saturdays)

What was winter like for people in the early 1900s? What did they do without smartphones or hoverboards to entertain themselves? Join us to try out some simple old-fashioned fun and games.

Winter White-Out

January 13 & 20, 9:00 – 2:00
(Saturdays)

Discover some things about snow that you didn't know, look at snow crystals close up, solve some snow mysteries, print snowflakes on a bandanna, and get ready to really enjoy the next snowstorm!

Night Lights

February 10 & 17, 9:00 – 2:00
(Saturdays)

Enjoy the night sky during the day! Drop in and learn about the constellations and their stories, make a constellation album, take an imaginary trip to different planets, make a moon calendar, and much more. Then start looking at the moon each night.

Wise as an owl?

Owls have a reputation for being wise. Maybe it is because they have forward-facing eyes like us. Or maybe it is because their facial feathers look a little like eyeglasses. While owls are extraordinary hunters, they are not exceptionally “wise.”

People often use the perceived characteristics of animals for comparisons. How many of these animal idioms do you know?

busy as a _____

hungry as a _____

quiet as a _____

blind as a _____

wise as an _____

slow as a _____

light as a _____

happy as a _____

bald as an _____

silly as a _____

mad as a _____

crazy as a _____

quick as a _____

graceful as a _____

snug as a _____ in a rug

ugly as a _____



Nature Time for Preschoolers

We'll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each session. These programs are for preschoolers, ages 3-5, and their parents, grandparents, or other adult. These programs are not for day care centers or organizations.

Go Fish!

December 5, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Fish are very different from people – and that's what makes them so interesting! Join us to discover why fish are fun.

Be-Kind-to-Earth Gifts

December 19, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

We'll make gifts from recycled materials. You'll have fun making them and giving them away!

Feather Coats

January 2, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

How do birds keep themselves warm in winter? Take a close-up look at feathers of all colors, shapes, and sizes.

Nature's Night Light

January 16, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

The moon looks different every night! Come celebrate our changing neighbor! Take a look at moon maps and imagine frogs, polar bears, and cheese!

Winter Sleepers

January 30, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Some of the animals at Havenwoods sleep all winter! Find out why they are sleeping and discover their secret resting places.

Let's See Your Teeth

February 13, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Smile and say “Ahhhh!” We'll take a close look at our teeth and the teeth of some wild animals. Touch real skulls and discover how animals use their teeth.

Run, Rabbit, Run

February 27, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Cottontail rabbits might live in your backyard. Come check out their swift feet, alert ears, and twitchy noses.

Books for Young Owlers

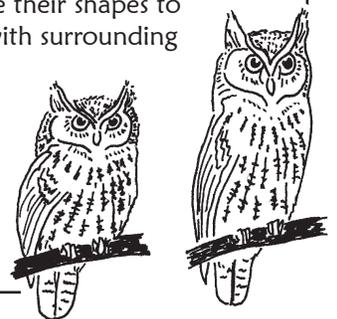
All About Owls by Jim Arnosky

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

Screech Owl at Midnight Hollow by C. Drew Lamm

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

Owls are shape-shifters! They can change their shapes to blend in with surrounding tree trunks and branches.



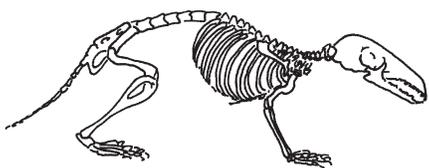


Havenwoods State Forest
 WI Dept. of Natural Resources
 6141 N. Hopkins Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53209

PRESORT
 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 MILWAUKEE WI
 PERMIT 4426

Nature in Your Backyard

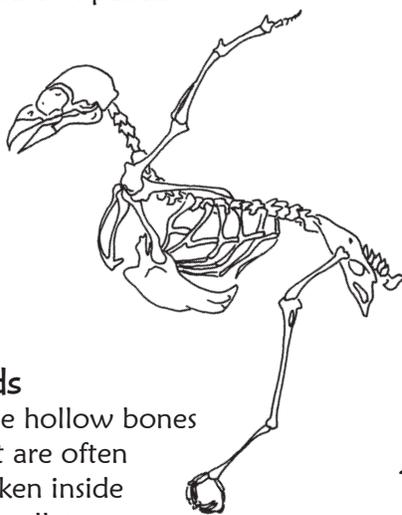
If you live near a wooded park or tree-lined waterway, there is a good chance that you have owls in your neighborhood. Even if you never see an owl, you can know they are there if you find owl pellets.



shrews

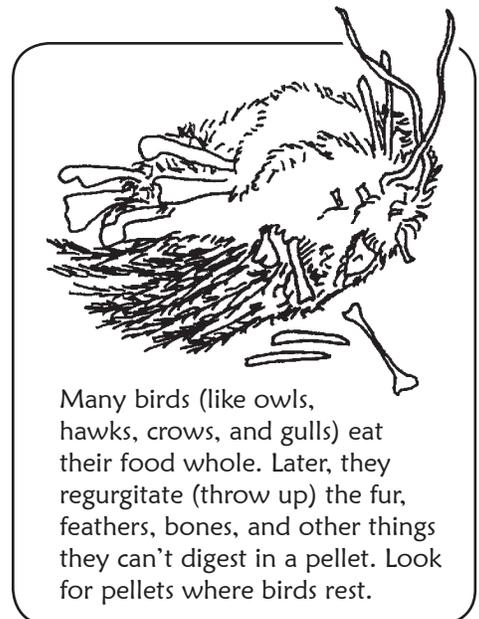
have very small, sharp teeth and tiny bones!

Use two sticks or a pair of tweezers to carefully tease apart the pellet. Inside you will find the skull, leg bones, ribs, vertebrae, shoulder bones, and hip bones of the prey the owl ate. Can you tell what was for lunch?

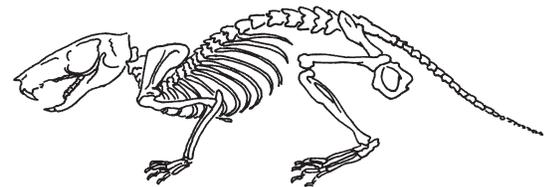


birds

have hollow bones that are often broken inside the pellet because they are not as strong as mammal bones. Look for bird beaks. Also, the fluff around the bones will be made of small feathers instead of fur.



Many birds (like owls, hawks, crows, and gulls) eat their food whole. Later, they regurgitate (throw up) the fur, feathers, bones, and other things they can't digest in a pellet. Look for pellets where birds rest.



mice & voles

have the brownish-colored "buck" teeth of rodents. Look for tiny leg bones.