

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

Aegolius acadicus



HABITAT

These tiny owls live and breed primarily in forests. In winter, some **migrate** to central and southern US, while some remain in their **breeding range** all year.



DIET



These owls hunt at night. They love to eat small rodents, especially mice and voles, but they'll also eat small birds and large insects. Because they're so small, they also have to watch out not to become food for larger owls or daytime **raptors**.

ADAPTATIONS

As **nocturnal** creatures, their incredibly powerful eyesight helps them to see in the dark. They also have special comb-like serrations on the tips of their wing feathers, which help break up air as it flows over their wings, making their flight completely silent. This is a key **adaptation** in their hunting ability.



FUN FACTS



When you're walking in the woods, keep an eye out on the ground for **owl pellets**. These are dry pellets made of the fur and bones of the owl's prey that the owl can't digest, which the owl spits back up. Sometimes you can find tiny mammal bones and skulls that can show you what the owl has been eating!

The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Project WildLIVE

STORIES FROM THE CO-LEADERS

Photo

