

Answer Key:

1. Scientists believe that most birds have little or no sense of smell, with the exception of hummingbirds and carrion feeders. Owls rely on their binocular vision and strong sense of hearing to locate prey.
2. Owl pellets are not poop; they are formed in the gizzard and regurgitated. They are made of all prey materials that cannot be digested, such as bones and fur.
3. Owls are strictly carnivorous. They have many adaptations that allow them to hunt and eat other animals, such as sharp talons, keen vision and hearing, sharp beaks for tearing meat, and feathers designed for silent flight.
4. Several owl species are crepuscular (most active at dawn and dusk) or diurnal (most active during the day). Examples of owls that are not nocturnal are the Northern Hawk Owl, the Snowy Owl, and the Burrowing Owl.
5. Adult owls have few natural predators. They are at the top of the food chain. Their most common predators are larger owls. Like most young animals, owlets are largely defenseless and susceptible to predation.
6. The Migratory Bird Act of 1918 protects all North American owl species. The MBTA made it illegal for people to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. Take is defined in the MBTA to include by any means or in any manner, any attempt at hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing, or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg, or part thereof. Teachers, rehabilitators, museums, and nature centers that work with owls or possess once-living owl parts must secure a federal Special Rehabilitation and Education permit.