



# OWLS

## OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### GREAT HORNED OWL

*Bubo virginianus*



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**Description:** 22". Long ear tufts, rusty colored facial disks & large body w/white throat. **Voice:** Series of hoots w/ 2nd and 3rd shorter than others: *hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo*. **Habitat:** Varies from extensive mature forests to small woodlots; may even be seen in city parks. **Range:** Widespread, but uncommon, year-round resident.

### LONG-EARED OWL

*Asio otus*



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**Description:** 15". Long ear tufts, rusty colored facial disks and slender body w/streaked chest and barred belly. **Habitat:** Dense coniferous or mixed forests near open areas for feeding. **Range:** Has occurred throughout N.H. Rare and secretive. No recent breeding records.

### BARRED OWL

*Strix varia*



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**Description:** 21". Dark bars across chest w/dark streaks below. **Voice:** A series of hoots sounds like, *Who cooks for you – who cooks for you all*. **Habitat:** Mixed woodlands w/large cavity trees for nesting and forest openings for feeding. **Range:** Most common owl throughout N.H. Year-round resident.

### GREAT GRAY OWL

*Strix nebulosa*



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**Description:** 27". Dark facial rings and small yellow eyes. Largest owl in North America. **Habitat:** Small woodlands near large, open, wet fields. **Range:** Very rare and irregular winter visitor in N.H.



## EASTERN SCREECH OWL

*Otus asio*



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**Description:** 8.5". Small body can be red or gray in color, eyes yellow, ear tufts visible when raised. **Voice:** Descending whinny, purrs and trills. **Habitat:** Open woodlands near fields, meadows or marshes, w/cavity trees for nesting and roosting. **Range:** Year-round resident in southern parts of N.H.

## NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

*Aegolius acadicus*



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**Description:** 8". Reddish-brown facial disks and back; white belly w/reddish streaks. **Voice:** Late winter and spring, series of tooting whistles: *Toot, toot, toot toot.* **Habitat:** Moist, mature woods and forested wetlands w/cavity trees, forests and low perches for foraging. **Range:** Fairly common year-round resident throughout N.H.

## NORTHERN HAWK OWL

*Surnia ulula*



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**Description:** 16". Black bordered facial disks, long tail and barred underneath. **Habitat:** Northern coniferous or mixed forests near openings for feeding. **Range:** Occasional winter visitor to N.H.

## BOREAL OWL

*Aegolius funereus*



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**Description:** 10". White facial disks w/black border, white belly w/chocolate brown streaks. **Habitat:** Dense coniferous and mixed hardwood-softwood forests. **Range:** Rare winter visitor throughout N.H.

## SNOWY OWL

*Nyctea scandiaca*



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**Description:** 23". White body w/dark bars and spots. Females and young have more markings than males. **Habitat:** Open beaches, marshes, fields, airports & islands along the coast. **Range:** Irregular winter visitor throughout N.H., especially on seacoast. More numerous in some years than others.

## SHORT-EARED OWL

*Asio flammeus*



NHFG COMPOSITE

**Description:** 15". Dark streaks on chest, pale belly, black marks on underside of wings visible in flight. **Habitat:** Large open grasslands and fresh or saltwater marshes. **Range:** Rare, occasionally seen near the coast and in the Connecticut River Valley in winter.



Learn more about New Hampshire's owls at:  
[www.WildNH.com/nongame](http://www.WildNH.com/nongame)

