

# All About Owls

Created by Marie @ The Homeschool Daily



# There are over 200 known species of owls.



God  
created  
birds on the  
5<sup>th</sup> day of  
Creation.



There are 19 species of owls in North America. The great horned owl, barn owl, and barred owl are most known.



**Baby owls are called owlets. Even though mother owls can lay up to 14 eggs, they can only lay 1 a day. The number of eggs laid depends on the amount of food supply available.**



**Even though all owls do not look exactly alike, they have some common characteristics.**





**In general, owls are nocturnal.  
This means they are more active at  
night and sleep during the  
daytime.**



**The color of an owl's feathers can help them blend into their environment. This is called camouflage.**





**Owls also have special feathers that allow them to fly silently through the air.**







**Owls like to live in holes of trees and abandoned nests of other animals.**

**Owls do not have eyeballs. Their eyes are long and shaped like tubes. Therefore, they cannot move them.**







**Because owls have forward-facing eyes, they have well-developed binocular vision.**



**Owls are far-sighted. This means they can see things well from far away, but do not see things clearly up close.**





**Owls can turn their heads up to 270 degrees both ways.**



**Not all owls hoot! Owls make a variety of sounds including whinnying like a horse and hissing. The familiar hoot is a territorial declaration.**







**Female owls  
are larger  
and heavier  
than the  
males of  
their  
species.**



**The tufts of feathers atop some owl's heads, referred to as 'ear tufts' are for display only.**



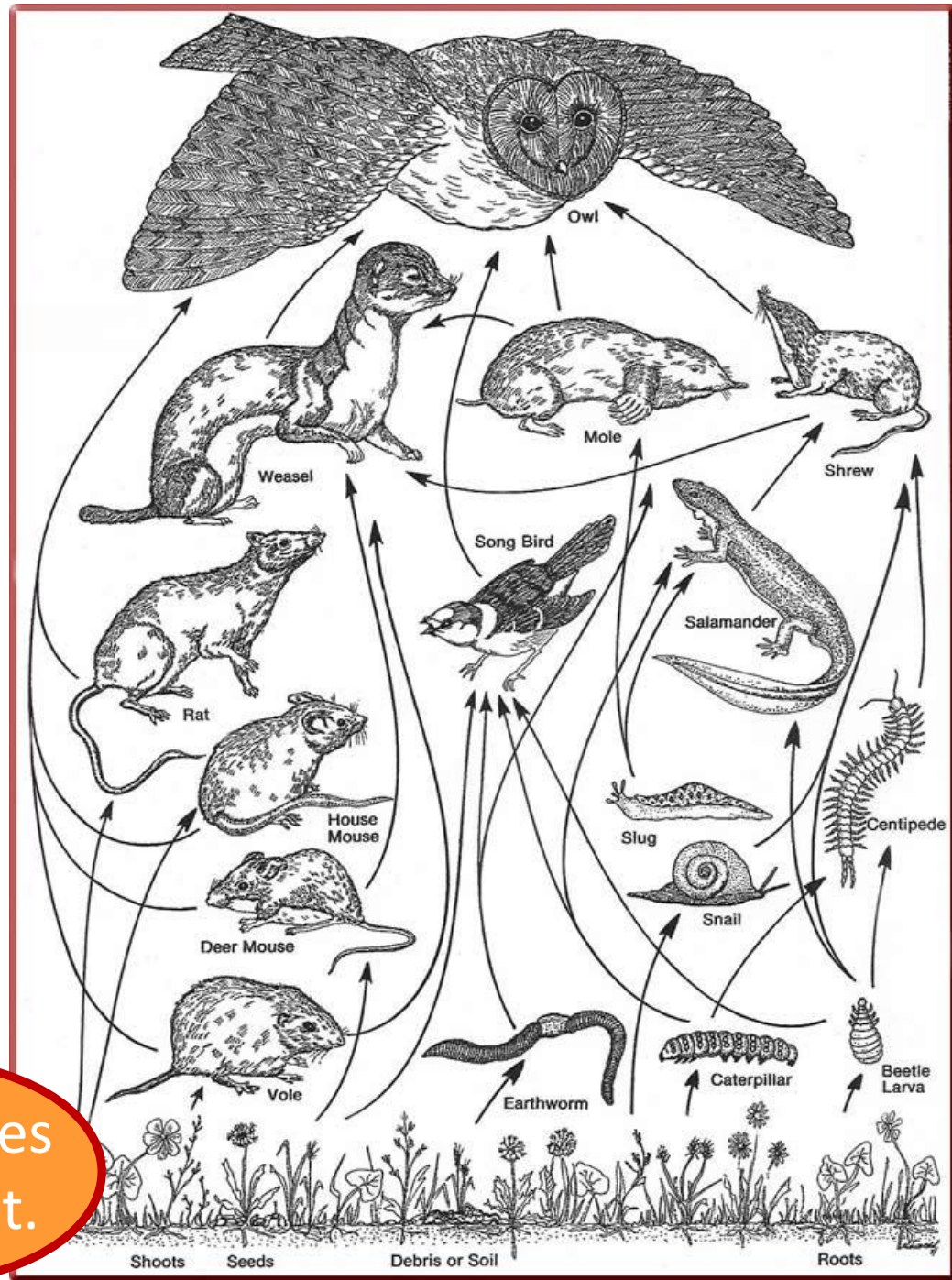


**The smallest owl species is the elf owl. It stands less than 6 inches tall and weighs less than an ounce and a half.**



Owls are carnivores. They eat insects, small mammals, and other birds. Some owls eat fish.

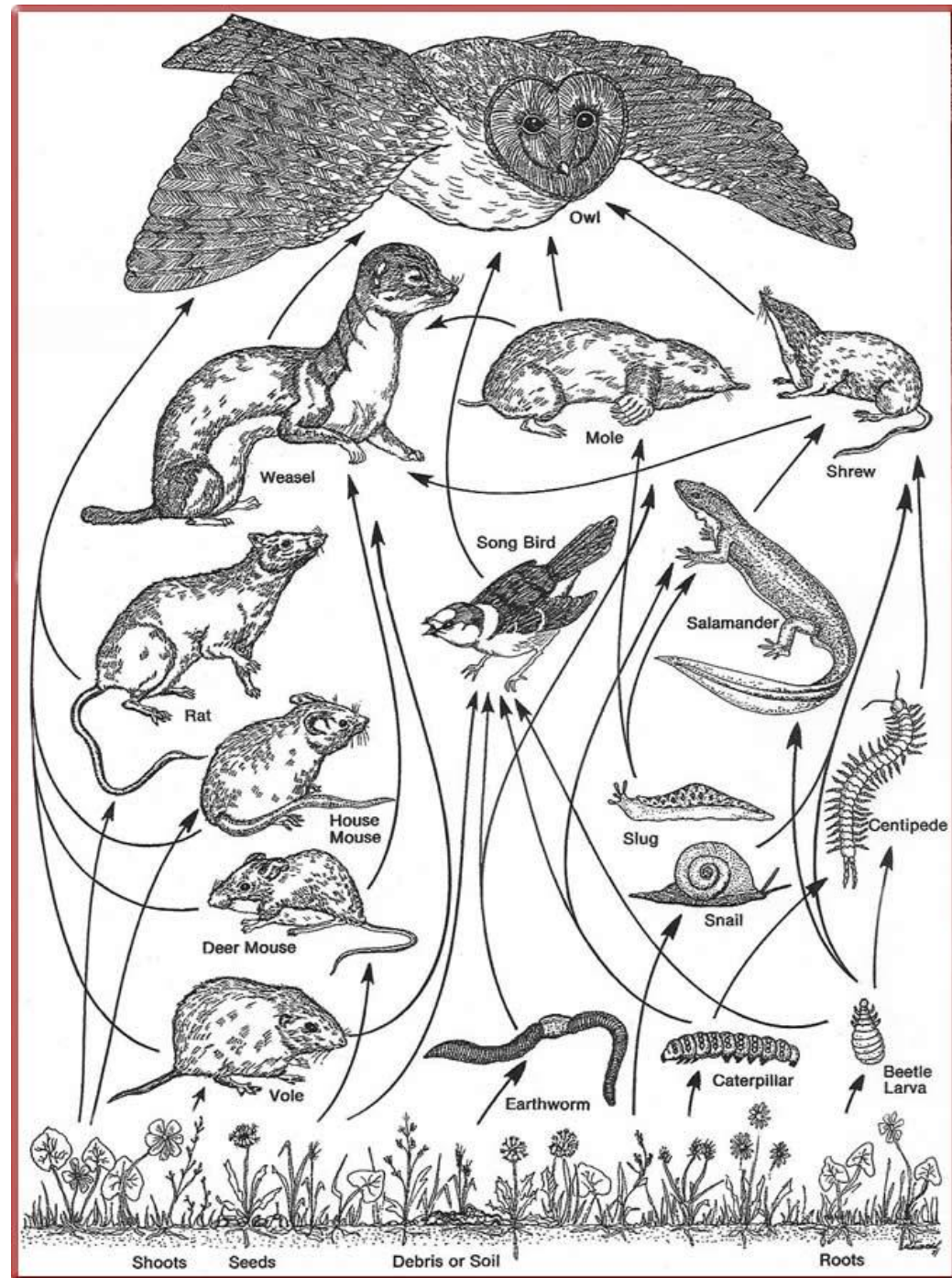
Carnivores eat meat.





In this example, the owl is at the top of the food chain. The owl is a predator. The animal it eats is its prey.

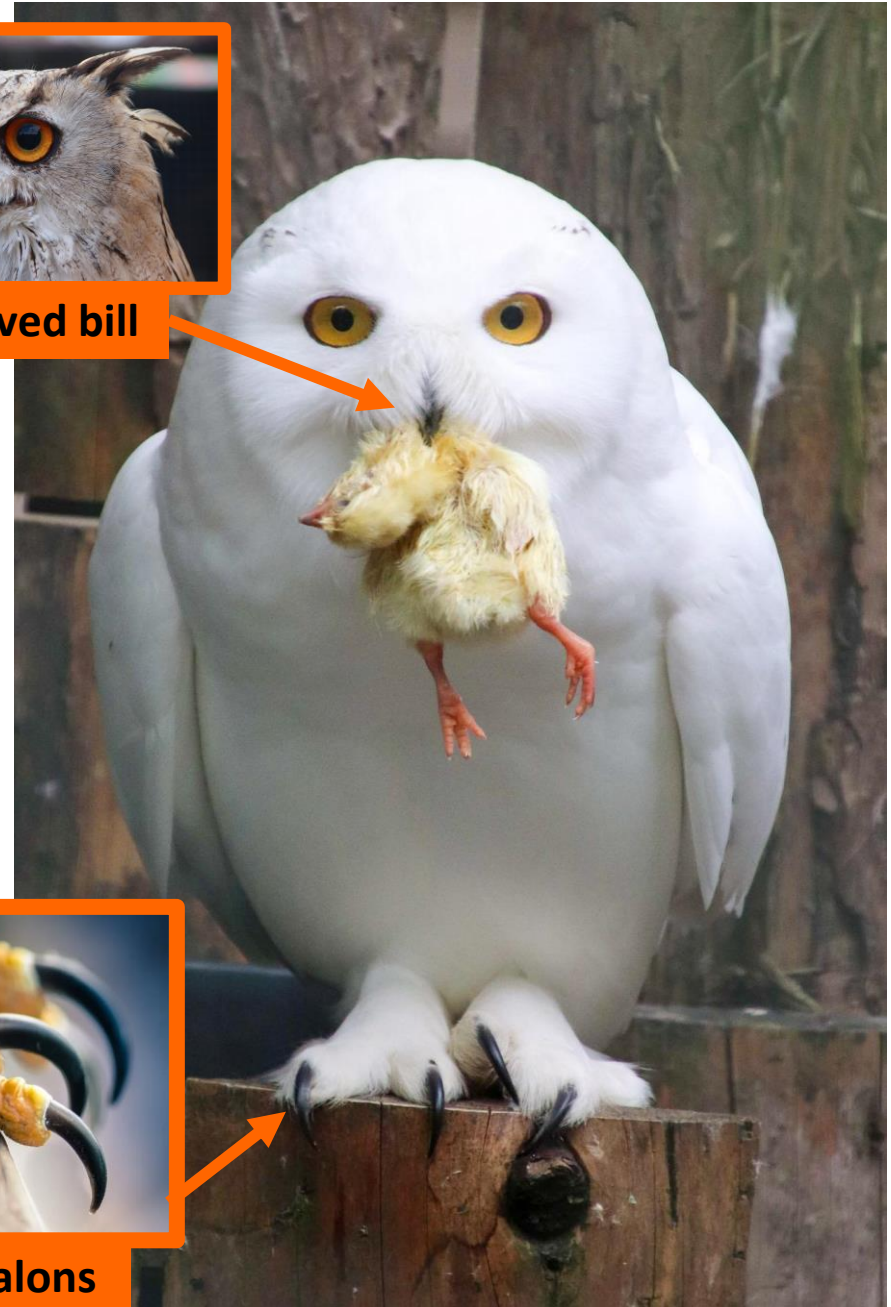
What animal is a predator and prey?



Owls are called raptors, or birds of prey. They use their sharp talons and curved bills to hunt, kill, and eat other animals.



Curved bill



Talons



**Since owls have no teeth, they cannot chew up their food.**



In the gizzard of an owl, the bones, teeth, and feathers of its prey are compacted into a tight pellet that the owl regurgitates.



Photo by [Leslie Abram](#)





































**An owl pellet can be 1 to 4 inches long. Generally, owls spit or cast up to 2 pellets a day.**



Inside an owl pellet, you will find the bones, fur, and teeth of an owl's prey. Using a bone chart, you can determine what the owl ate.

OWL PELLET BONE CHART				
	RODENT	SHREW	MOLE	BIRD
SKULL				
JAW				
SCAPULA				
FORE LIMB				
HIND LIMB				
PELVIC BONE				
RIB				
VERTEBRAE				





# Owl Pellet Investigation Time

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