



## Owling 101

learn about who is flying our friendly skies!

### Overview:

Celebrate the migration of North America's smallest owl, the Saw-Whet! This interactive program introduces important ecological concepts while engaging students in hands-on learning. Live bird demonstrations make this program a favorite of students and teachers alike.

### Purpose:

To introduce students to the concepts of energy flow, ecosystems, habitats and adaptations through the study of owls.

**General Objective:** To give students the knowledge to . . .

1. discuss the flow of energy in natural systems.
2. understand what an ecosystem is and describe the components of a healthy habitat.
3. identify by sight and sound four Wisconsin owls and explain how they meet their basic needs for water, nutrients, protection, and energy.
4. discuss aspects of interconnections, equilibrium, and change as they relate to natural systems.

### Wisconsin's Environmental Education and Science Model Academic Standards:

1. B.4.1 Describe the flow of energy in natural systems, citing the sun as the source of energy on the earth; e.g., a food chain
2. B.4.4 List the components of an ecosystem, including the qualities of a healthy habitat
3. F.4.1 Discover how each organism meets its basic needs for water, nutrients, protection, and energy in order to survive
4. F.4.4 Using the science themes, develop explanations for the connections between living and non-living things in various environments.

### Procedure:

This program takes place on Woodland Dunes Conifer Trail. As we explore the forest your students will meet some friends along the way, and through props, costumes and activities, learn about some of the owls that live in Manitowoc County. Your students will also have the opportunity to search for "owl puke" (owl pellets) and learn about how owls fit into the forest ecosystem.

During the forest adventure, migration permitting students will be able to meet a saw-whet owl - and any other surprises that might have flown in the night before. At this station they will learn about bird migration, bird banding research and some of the amazing adaptations of owls.

**\*Note:** October and early November are peak migration times for the saw-whet owl. Because migration depends on wind direction and weather systems, all groups may not see a live owl.

The entire program takes place outside. Students should be dressed for autumn weather, even on mild days jackets, long pants and tennis shoes should be worn.