

Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus*



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The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the smallest owls in North America, measuring about 7-8 inches long. They have earned their name because their call sounds like a saw that is being sharpened on a whetting stone, though nobody knows who first coined the name.

Description

Size and Shape- Small owls with a large, round cat-like face, large, round eyes, and a short, down-curved beak.

Color Pattern- Spotted white and brown throughout the whole body, yellowish-brown eyes. Juveniles are dark brown with a dark creamy yellow chest and belly.

Behavior- Are nocturnal and will perch on low branches at night to wait for prey.

They often roost in dense vegetation.

Song- Tooting whistles.

Habitat- Dense coniferous forests and mixed-wood forests.

Range- Canada and Mid-West United States year-round. Central and Eastern United States during the winter.

Diet- Mostly small mammals such as mice, voles, moles, and young chipmunks and squirrels. May sometimes eat insects such as grasshoppers and beetles.

Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Aegolius acadicus*

Family- Strigidae (Owls)

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 7.1-8.3 in (18-21 cm)

Wingspan- 16.5-18.9 in (42-48 cm)

Weight- 2.3-5.3 oz (65-151 g)

Egg Statistics

Color- White

Nest- Cavity of tree with debris

Clutch size- 4-7 eggs

Number of broods- 1-2

Length- 1.1-1.3 in (2.8-3.3 cm)

Width- 0.9-1 in (2.4-2.6cm)

Incubation period- 26-29 days

Nestling period- 24-34 days