



Kid's Corner- Winter Newsletter 2022

The days are shorter and the sky is blue and gray. Blankets of white snow and icicles decorate the landscape. Unlike the animals around us we don't have the adaptations to survive without bundling up for winter. We layer ourselves with coats, gloves, fuzzy hats, and scarves, and bulky boots to survive the cold winter days. However, if we look closely we can find the beauty in winter. The birds of winter are majestic and full of wonder, particularly the owls.

Let's Explore Owls



Great Horned Owl is the largest and best-known owl in New Jersey. It is known for its “HOOH-hoo-hooh-HOOOH” call at night. They are year round residents of New Jersey. However their mating and nesting season starts in December. They are known for their large size, tufted round head, and horizontally striped breast and belly.



Another owl is the short-eared owl. These owls were once found regularly in the marshes and meadowlands of New Jersey, but because of draining and development the population has been reduced. Although they don't breed as much in New Jersey they are still frequent flyers of the state in winter. They can usually be found in meadows and open areas. Sadly, short-eared owls are considered endangered in New Jersey.



Lastly, the owl that is famous to us all is the snowy owl. You may recognize this beautiful creature as Hedwig from Harry Potter. The male snowy white owl is pure as snow. It's female mate has a white head and is streaked with black. These majestic creatures can be found in winter on New Jersey beaches such

as Island Beach State Park. Unlike most owls, snowy owls hunt in the daytime making them easy to spot.

So you want to go owling



Supplies:

- Binoculars
- Warm clothing
- Field Guide

Directions:

1. The best time to go owling is dusk or dawn. This is because there is some light at early night and they tend to be active earlier in the winter.
2. Owls are not fans of rainy nights so it is best to go after a few nights of consecutive dry weather.
3. The winter is a great time because the trees are bare for you to see them. However, do not try using a flashlight as this will scare them.
4. Look in quiet wooded places. Owls love to roost in hollow trees.
5. Helpful hints listen to the local owl calls ahead of time to identify them. Don't go on a windy day as it may be hard to identify them.

**Please send your photo of the finished projects to
HawthorneEC@gmail.com or Facebook Hawthorne Environmental
Commission/Green Team.**