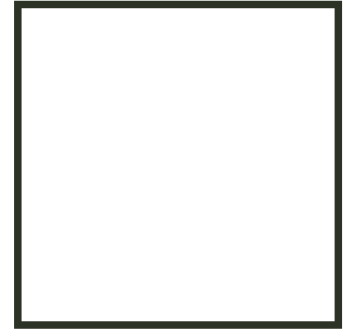
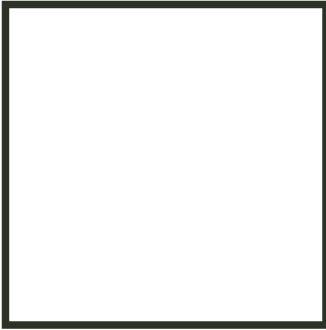


Pygmy Owl Scavenger Hunt

Today you are a PYGMY OWL!

You are a fierce hunter and find your prey by sitting quietly. Can you find a quiet place in the forest to look for prey? A branch on a large tree would be perfect!

Draw a few of the trees you see that look like a good hunting spot.

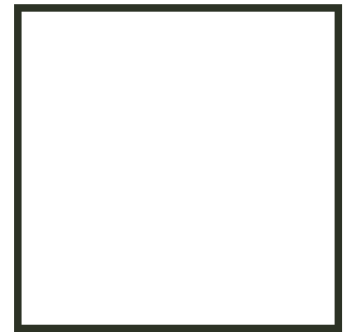
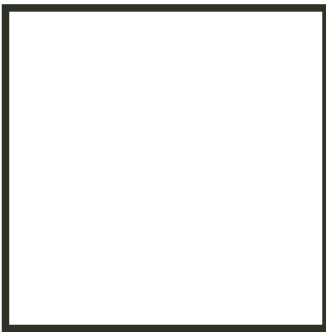


Time to eat! You love to eat small birds, chipmunks and insects like butterflies and beetles.

Draw a small bird you see

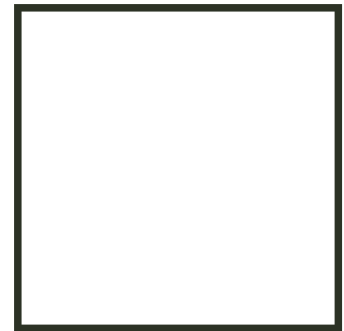
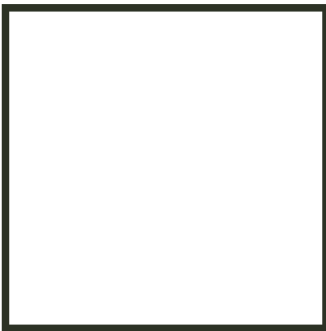
Draw an insect you see

**Draw any other critter
you see that might be
good for lunch**



Time to find a place to sleep for the night. You love to sleep in natural tree cavities, old woodpecker holes, human constructed nest boxes or abandoned nests. Where do you find a good place to sleep?

Draw a few good places to get some Zzzzz's



NORTHERN PYGMY OWL, *Glaucidium gnoma*

The word “pygmy” means small, and that certainly describes the Northern Pygmy Owl standing at 16 - 18 centimeters tall (6 – 7 inches), this tiny owl is the smallest owl in North America. But even for its small size (2.2 ounces) it is a fierce little owl that frequently preys on birds and mammals larger than itself.

Northern Pygmy Owls are well known for their feather markings. These owls literally have “eyes on the back of their heads”, or so it seems. Though Pygmy Owls have bright yellow eyes in front, the backs of their heads are feathered with a pair of eye spots. These markings are really just variations in feather coloring. Researchers believe that they confuse predators and songbirds that might mob them. You might get to see on for yourself, for this is one owl that can be seen hunting most anytime of the day or night, but especially near dawn or dusk “crepuscular”. These little owls usually make their home near forest edges for good hunting locations.

Description

A plump little owl with short wings, yellow eyes, yellowish beak, small white spots on it's feathering, dark white-ringed “false eyes” on the back of it's head. The females are slightly larger, 6.3 inches – 7.1 inch in height. It's voice is a series of evenly spaced high pitched “toots”, but it has a variety of trills, twitters and chirps.

Habitat

The Northern Pygmy Owl can be found in western north America, from south eastern Alaska and British Columbia, south to California, Arizona and northern Mexico. It lives in mostly coniferous and deciduous forest, usually along the forest edge. It's nests are abandoned woodpecker holes in trees and will use a nestbox put in a secluded, undisturbed location.

Diet

This tiny owl is an incredible little hunter. It will catch small birds often bigger than itself, and mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. It will also eat insects such as moths and grasshoppers, and will occasionally take small reptiles and amphibians.

Nesting

These owls are cavity nesters and will lay 3 – 4 eggs with the incubation taking 27-29 days. The female will brood the young and will stay with them during their first week of hatch. The male provides the female with all her food and young chicks until she will start hunting too for her tiny family. The chicks will begin to fly at 27 -29 days.

Threats

The Northern Pygmy Owl does not migrate unless forced to look for new habitat or food. The owls population is declining due to logging, climate change, declining song bird populations, and the use of pesticides.

How to spot the Pygmy Owl

You may get to see this little owl yourself since it does hunt during the day, but also at dawn or dusk “crepuscular” time. But you must be patient and quiet in the forest to see it, and you might even hear it before you see it. Look for abandoned woodpecker holes in trees to see who is living in it.

Pygmy Owl Word Find

H P Y I A F G U U R S O N F K B K V G Z
Q K C V F S K R J P D W R G J Y R E S G
A D L T W K J X K R R R L Q Y P Y P W C
P R C C W T V V G E O T J K K A M B U M
G R V L P R E Y C D C S Z K F H C E H X
J K W M R F V V F A U A T N V S R E M M
L Y Z R V C L N F T M K B K E D K T C C
C M E Y E T C A J O Z Y Z R U T O L X H
K Y J A X N U J X R Y G R S X F S E C I
U X F U P F C T H E D E C T B M K O I C
Z A I L M O A F J G T H E P V I M G N K
A Q R W X O V V U D J K G M Z N M A X A
L B M W O M I B U T T E R F L Y E R F D
A P E Q X R T X G D I K C N O J B S B E
W C E T A I Y E J I A N T E P Q K I T E
F V Q D P Y G M Y O W L S L Q I Z T F P
T W N D E A L I R O H Y F E A Q M T I A
O X F O K L M W M P E B B U C Q L E I R
Q S R N D S T Y C R J U K W A T X U T X
Y Z O A K C Y N L J X X S Y R S Q U R N

chickadee

butterfly

pygmy owl

predator

beetle

insect

cavity

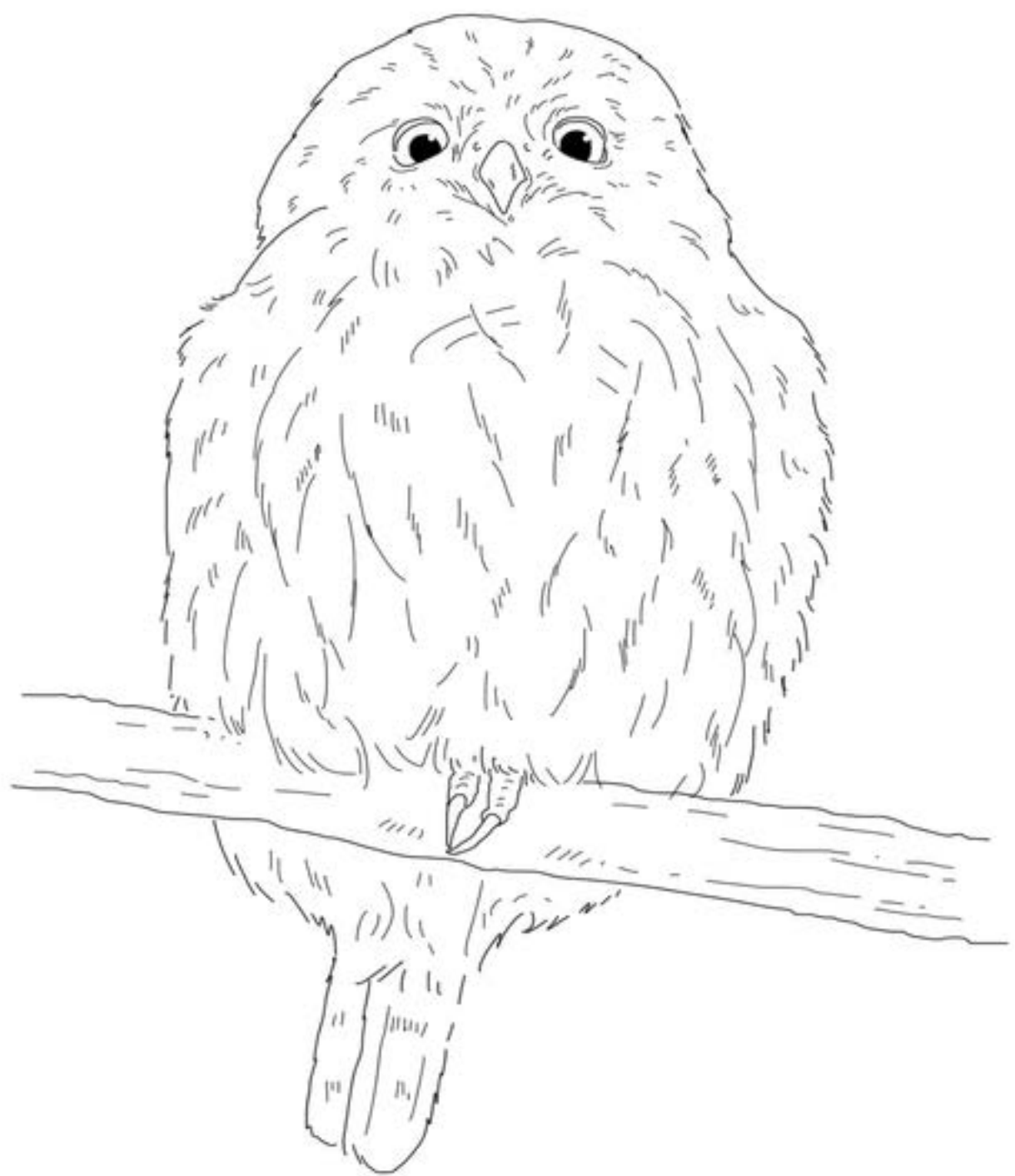
wren

prey

nest

oak

fir



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