

4.3 Admit Slip

Get Your Senses Ready!

Most bird-watchers practice their hobby during daylight hours because many birds are diurnal, or active during the day. Although some species of owls are also visible during the day, most owls are nocturnal, or active at night. Before deciding to go out for a night of owling, it is important to conduct some research on the owls living in your community to learn about their habits. The more you know, the more successful your owling experience will be.

To begin your owling adventure, travel at night to a place where you have heard an owl hoot. Once you enter an owl's territory, it will respond to an imitation of its call; it will hoot a response to protect its territory. Some owlers bring tape recordings of owl calls or the sounds of owls' prey, such as mouse squeaks or hurt rabbit sounds. Others use whistles that imitate owl calls. Inexperienced birders can use their own voices to imitate and to respond to owls' calls and often have good luck with owls returning their calls.

How can you prepare to go on an owling adventure? In the winter in cold climates, it is recommended that owlers wear warm clothes that do not rustle; it's important to be quiet when you're owling. Bringing a flashlight is a good idea for safety, but you will see more if there is only natural light such as the moon or the reflection of moonlight on snow. Stay in the shadows so you see the owl before it sees you. Owls sometimes attack people who venture into their territory. The most important thing to remember is to bring a heart full of patience on a successful owling outing.

Visit www.owling.com for owl call recordings and more information.

What sense do you think you'd use most if you went out owling on a dark and snowy winter night? Why?
