

See the Movie!
Opening April 2006

HOOT

In this funny, fast-paced new movie, three Florida middle-schoolers fight to save a group of burrowing owls. Meet Roy, the new kid in Coconut Cove. Follow him as he uncovers the secret of the barefoot running boy known as Mullet Fingers. Be sure to stay on brawny Beatrice's good side. Then hold on as this unlikely trio takes you on a wild ride!

The bulldozers stand ready to turn an open field into the newest Mother Paula's Pancake House. The developers claim to see no owls. But they're there, and the three friends are determined to save the threatened birds and their habitat. They'll go to major extremes—from alligators in the port-a-potty to run-ins with ferocious guard dogs and a big bully—to save the mini owls.



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WALDEN MEDIA™

Walden Media produces entertainment that inspires young audiences to explore the world around them. Both a Hollywood movie studio and a network of educators developing new ways to use film in the classroom, Walden Media brings to life classic and award-winning books including *Holes*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Look for more *Hoot* materials and information at www.walden.com/hoot, and register to get the latest news about other Walden Media movies, contests, events, and more.

Open this poster to discover why so many people “give a hoot” about burrowing owls—and to find out how you can help wildlife where you live.



Shhhh. Don't tell anyone, but getting outside is just plain fun!

Dear Teachers and Caregivers,

The National Wildlife Federation's *Ranger Rick* magazine is pleased to introduce you to *Hoot!*

Hoot is a Newbery Honor-winning book by Carl Hiaasen and a feature film brought to you by Walden Media and New Line Cinema. With a fast-moving plot and generous doses of humor, *Hoot* is an engaging tale of three young teens who make a difference for wildlife.

National Wildlife Week 2006 takes place April 22–30. There's no better time to celebrate stories like this one, and we hope this poster will inspire you to be part of the fun. Here's how you can use it:

Get excited by learning more about wildlife. The poster provides an in-depth look at burrowing owls, the stars of the show. There's more for kids to explore in *Ranger Rick* magazine, and the online *Ranger Rick Educator's Guide* brings you additional reading, writing, and science connections for every issue. Visit us at www.nwf.org/rangerrick.

Get outside! Use the ideas on the poster to help kids observe and enjoy wildlife in your neighborhood. Getting outside is fun—and it encourages interdisciplinary, inquiry-based learning; develops thinking and problem-solving skills; promotes physical fitness; fosters a positive relationship with our environment; and diminishes symptoms of ADHD.

Get involved by engaging kids in creating and restoring wildlife habitat in yards, schoolyards, parks, and gardens in your community. Everybody benefits from this endeavor: wildlife that depends on healthy habitat for survival, kids who reap the many rewards of service learning, and communities that gain a beautiful green space and a sense of pride in a big accomplishment.

For more ideas, tips, and activities, visit www.nwf.org and www.walden.com/hoot. And don't forget to read the book! *Hoot* is published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books. Hardcover (ISBN 0-375-82181-3) Paperback (ISBN 0-375-82916-4)

Best wishes... and thanks for "giving a hoot"!

Tips for Taking Kids Outside

Outdoor experiences bring learning to life! Use these tips to step out on the right foot.

Be prepared. Scope out the area ahead of time. Be sure kids are dressed for the weather. And take along water, sunscreen, and a first-aid kit.

Set clear expectations. Before going out, agree on appropriate behavior. Give specific instructions to focus kids' attention.

Plan the logistics. Establish a meeting place and a signal for gathering the group. Designate and rotate group leaders.

Be flexible. Stay open to unplanned but memorable "interruptions" such as wildlife sightings.

Be confident. You don't need to be able to name every tree or bird you see. You'll draw kids in with your enthusiasm and discover new things together.

The information and activities on this poster support the following academic standards:

SCIENCE

NSES Standard C: Life Science
K-4 — Characteristics of Organisms, Life Cycles, Organisms and Environments
5-8 — Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms

LANGUAGE ARTS

NCTE/IRA Standard 1: Reading a Range of Texts
NCTE/IRA Standard 7: Conducting Research

SOCIAL STUDIES

NCSS Standard 3: People, Places, and Environments



RANGER RICK MEETS A STAR



THEO ALLOFS

Ranger Rick: I'm here with Carl, a burrowing owl with a leading role in *Hoot*.

Carl Burrowing Owl: Carl is just my stage name, actually—in honor of Carl Hiaasen, the author of *Hoot*. Rick, I'm glad to talk to you. I never thought I'd meet a celebrity. I certainly never expected to become one myself!

RR: You burrowing owls are special, and it's not just because you're movie stars. Will you tell us about an ordinary day off-camera?

CBO: Well, when you think *owl*, you probably think of a big bird that hunts by night, eats lots of mice, and lives in a tree, right? That's not us! Let me explain.

First, we're much smaller than most owls—only about 9 inches (23 cm) tall. That's about the size of a robin.

We're also not your basic night owls. Though burrowing owls often hunt at night, we're also active in the morning, in the evening, and even in the middle of the day.

Like other owls, we do eat mice and other small mammals. But beetles, moths, grasshoppers, and other insects are also big in our diet. So are frogs, lizards (check out the photo at **right**), and even scorpions!

You won't find us in a forest. We need wide open, grassy areas. See my long legs in the photo at **left**? They're like stilts that help me see over the grass. With those big yellow eyes, I'm always on the lookout for predators and prey. That's



TOM VEZO

because my home isn't up in a tree. As you might guess from our name, burrowing owls live underground—in burrows!

RR: Home sweet hole, huh? Tell us more.

CBO: The photo **above** shows what my burrow looks like from the outside. My friends and I here in Florida usually dig our own burrows. Our relatives out west often take over burrows abandoned by badgers, prairie dogs, tortoises, and other animals.

To make a burrow, we use our feet, beaks, and wings to dig out a long downward-sloping tunnel. The tunnel bends around in a J-shape. At the end we hollow out a larger area for the eggs.

We line our burrows with dung from cows, horses, or other mammals. Why do people always make an icky face when I say that? The smell covers up our scent so predators won't find us. It also attracts dung beetles, one of our favorite snacks.

RR: That makes good "scents." Do you have any eggs in that burrow of yours, Carl?

CBO: No. Rick, I'm sure you know how hard it is for a celebrity to have a normal family life. I'm much too busy on the set right now to bring food to my mate every day. That's what I'd have to do if she were inside the burrow with a clutch of eggs.

Even when burrowing owl chicks get old enough to venture outside, they aren't able to hunt on their own yet. Their parents still have to feed them, and that's a big job. They can't fly well until they're six weeks old. I just can't commit to that kind of responsibility right now!

RR: You're a busy bird, Carl. Do you have time for a few last words?

CBO: Although we owls don't have any lines in *Hoot*, I think our story comes through loud and clear. In many places, there are fewer burrowing owls than there once were. Why? People are turning our homes into buildings, parking lots, and farm fields. Without wide open land, we owls just can't survive.

We don't mind living near humans. Some of us have even found homes at airports, on golf courses, and in people's backyards. But we do need space. *Hoot* is a great story, but you know what's even better? Real people, not just the ones in books and movies, are helping to protect burrowing owls. That makes me happy.

RR: That *is* great, Carl. All you readers out there, read on! You'll find out what people are doing to help burrowing owls. You'll also learn what *you* can do to enjoy and protect wildlife. 🦉



MICHAEL TURCO



GLENN WATKINS, J.C. ZIM'S NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS

Adopt a Place

Find a place to call your own—your backyard or schoolyard, a park or trail, or the edge of a pond or stream. Visit at different times of the day and in different kinds of weather. Bring a friend or family member with you, and be sure to tell an adult where you're going. Then try out these tips and techniques in your special site.

Tips for Watching Wildlife

1. Do not disturb. Move slowly and quietly. Try to blend in with your surroundings. It's

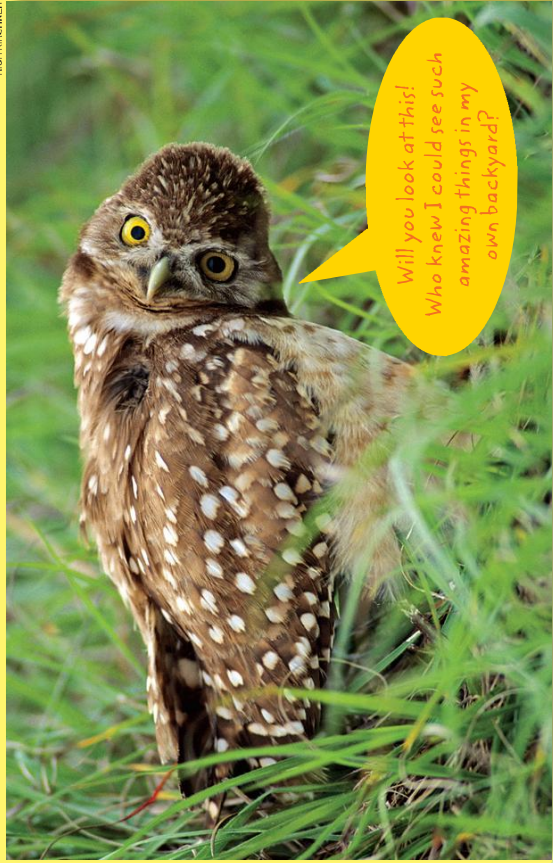
much easier to see animals when they're not hiding from you!

2. Look up, down, all around. If you don't see anything at first, look closer. Peek under logs and rocks, beneath leaves, on trees, and into puddles or ponds.

3. Listen up. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. What do you hear? Where is each sound coming from?

4. Watch for signs. Tracks, holes, nests, droppings, chewed leaves or twigs, and other clues say, "Wildlife was here!"

RICH KRELMER



WILDLIFE WHERE YOU LIVE

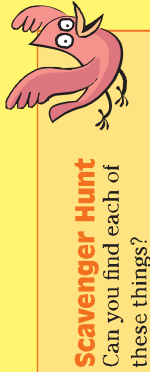
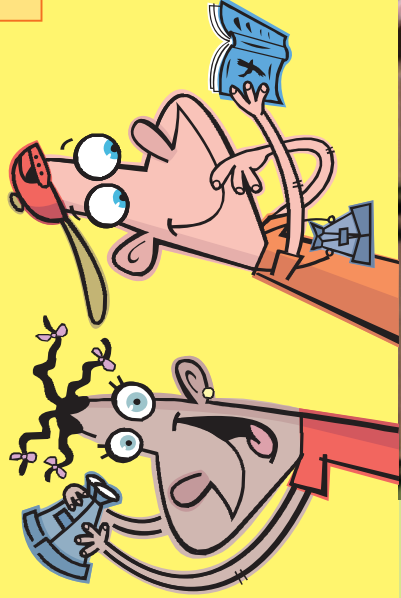
For Mullet Fingers, Roy, and Beatrice, saving the burrowing owls in Coconut Cove started with seeing them. Maybe burrowing owls don't live in your neighborhood. But you won't know what amazing wildlife *does* live near you until you look! Here are some ideas for getting to know wildlife where you live.

Write It Down

Carry a notebook and pencil when you explore. Then keep track of your discoveries by writing or drawing pictures of what you see. You could also bring a camera and snap a photo. Note the time and place to jog your memory later. Write down your questions, too. You can look up the answers when you're back inside.

Look It Up

If you don't know the name of something, don't worry! Borrow a field guide from your library to look up wildlife you've seen and find answers to puzzling nature questions. Or ask a local nature expert. You can also visit www.eNature.com to find online field guides and create your own personal wildlife lists.



Scavenger Hunt

Can you find each of these things?

- ☐ A bird
- ☐ A butterfly
- ☐ Another kind of insect
- ☐ A snail or slug
- ☐ An amphibian or reptile
- ☐ A mammal
- ☐ An animal track
- ☐ A hole, nest, or other home
- ☐ Munched leaves or twigs
- ☐ Animal droppings
- ☐ A sound made by an animal
- ☐ Five different kinds of leaves
- ☐ A tree or plant in bloom
- ☐ Seeds or fruit
- ☐ Signs of the season
- ☐ Something people have done to help wildlife



The national literacy organization Reading Is Fundamental and its partner, Walden Media, recently asked kids to share stories about how they "Give a Hoot about Animals." Learn what kids like you are doing to help animals all across the country at www.readingplanet.org

HANDS-ON HABITAT

OK. You've gone looking for signs of wildlife where you live. Did you find lots of evidence? Just a little? Either way, you can do something to make your neighborhood a better place for wildlife. Lend a hand by creating or improving **habitat**. You'll help out the animals that already live there—and attract more, too!

Habitat! What's That?

Habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives. Without habitat, living things can't survive. With healthy habitat, they'll thrive. For animals, habitat has four parts:



Give a Hoot about Habitat

In *Hoot*, the owls' habitat is threatened when people want to turn it into Mother Paula's Pancake House. All over the world, habitat for wildlife is shrinking as cities grow. But here's the good news: People are helping by bringing habitat back one yard, schoolyard, garden, or park at a time. You can join in with one of the projects at right.

Hands-On Habitat Projects

Start a garden. Big or small, a plot of flowers and shrubs is a magnet for wildlife. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees drink the flowers' sweet nectar. Birds and small mammals eat berries and seeds. Insects munch the leaves.

Plant a tree. Fruits, nuts, or seeds provide food. The sheltering branches offer places to hide or nest. On a hot day, you'll appreciate the shade, too!

Get wet. Keep a birdbath or shallow saucer filled with clean water for drinking and bathing. Or help clean up a stream or build a pond.

Pile it up. Build a rock or brush pile. It's like an apartment building for wildlife.

Build a nest box. Check online or at your library for plans that are just right for certain birds.

Open a restaurant. Hang up a bird feeder or pinecones filled with peanut butter and bird seed.





WELCOMING OWLS HOME

A Florida wildlife biologist helps people and owls share habitat



Mother Paula's pancakes won't satisfy the burrowing owl **above**. It needs insects, mice, and lizards to make a real meal. It also needs open space for the burrow where it lives and raises its young.

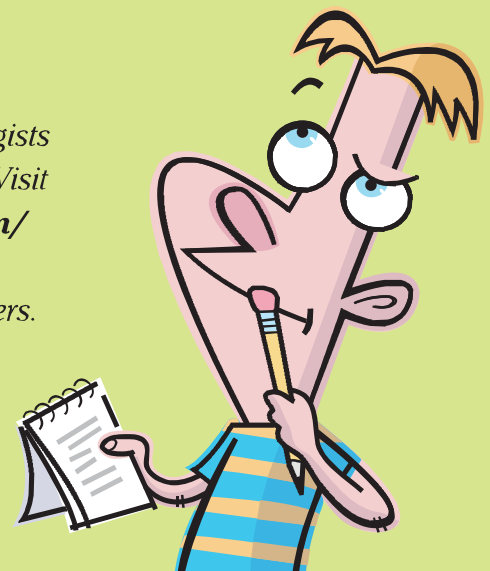
Wildlife biologist Brian Mealey works hard to make sure burrowing owls have the habitat they need. He helps people in southeastern Florida live side by side with owls. When people move into the owls' territory, he gives them this advice: Trim the grass around the burrow so the owls can spot approaching predators. Don't use lawn chemicals. (They can make the owls sick.) Keep pets away so they don't harm the owls. And remember that owls are wild animals—don't feed them or get too close.

People really love helping their owls, Brian says. Some even build perches like the one **above**. The perch provides a lookout tower and protection from predators and hot sun. This owl seems happy with the arrangement!

In *Hoot*, a construction project threatens the owls' habitat. (See photo **above**.) Brian also helps in these situations. When construction is planned in places where owls live, he works with the builders to find ways to avoid disturbing the burrows. If that doesn't work, sometimes he moves the owls into new burrows nearby.

As you can see, people in Florida are making a difference for burrowing owls—right in their own backyards!

Want to learn more about wildlife biologists and what they do? Visit www.walden.com/hoot to read up on environmental careers.



ART BY JACK DESROCHER

Give a HOOT about Wildlife!



Walden Media, New Line Cinema, and the National Wildlife Federation have teamed up to connect kids and families with wildlife and nature through the engaging film *Hoot*. Visit www.walden.com/hoot.



WILD: SHANTIL BOB ROZNIK, SHANTIL ROZNIK PHOTO