

OTHERS

Chitinous remains of grasshoppers and other insects may also be found in owl pellets.

5. Using the Specimen Identification and Sorting Chart included in this kit, place skulls and bones in the proper spaces provided. This will help you organize the parts of common prey found in owl pellets. After you have sorted and enumerated the number of skulls found. Record the number of prey animals you found in your pellet. There will be 2 jawbones found to each skull in most pellets.

Indicate below other materials you have found by placing a check in the blank:

fur _____ insect wings _____ feathers _____ seeds _____ plant fibers _____
bird skulls _____ bird claws _____ insect casings _____

Record other prey that you observed by dissecting your pellet. _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.

You might need to use the Key that is provided with this kit.

GROUP or CLASS RESULTS

Total number of pellets: _____

Total number of prey: _____

Totals of each species:

Shrew	_____	Mole	_____
House Mouse	_____	Rat	_____
Vole	_____	Bird	_____
Deer Mouse	_____	Other	_____

Average number of rodents per pellet _____

Calculate the percentages of each species by dividing the total number of prey into the total number of each species above.

Percentages:

Shrew	_____	Mole	_____
House Mouse	_____	Rat	_____
Vole	_____	Bird	_____
Deer Mouse	_____	Other	_____

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1. Which prey animal is most abundant in your owl pellet sample? _____
2. If all of the pellets studied came from the same site, what conclusions could you draw about rodent populations and owls in that specific area? _____

3. If an owl regurgitates an average of 2 pellets a day and the average number of prey in a pellet is _____... How many rodents (that may be harmful to crops or carriers of disease) could be eliminated in one year (365 days) by just one owl? _____