

Making Room for Owls that Dig

Text and image provided courtesy of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



burrowing owl

Where do birds live? Some live in **nests** in trees. Some make their **nests** on buildings. And some live in the ground!

One bird that lives in the ground is called a burrowing owl. These owls find holes other animals have dug and make their homes there. They also move into areas where other animals, such as prairie dogs, have dug tunnels. Sometimes, they dig their own holes.

Burrowing owls are small birds. They have yellow eyes and long legs. They **hunt** on the ground for bugs and small animals like mice. They can also fly to find food. Sometimes, they even eat smaller birds! They store food in their **nests** in the ground for their babies.

Today, some burrowing owls have to find new homes. Many areas where these owls used to live are changing. People are moving there. People

chase away the prairie dogs and fill in their holes and tunnels. The people build houses, stores, and offices. When that happens, burrowing owls have nowhere to live.

People who care about burrowing owls want to **protect** them. In some areas, people set aside land for the owls. People have also learned something new. Some burrowing owls will make **nests** in large pipes or barrels on the ground. People are placing barrels for owls to use as **nests**. These new **nests** will help burrowing owls continue to have families.

These conservation efforts are supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), which specializes in bringing together individuals, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations to restore our nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats for current and future generations.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where do burrowing owls live?

- A. in the ground
- B. in trees
- C. in buildings

2. What is one example of a food that the burrowing owl eats?

- A. large birds
- B. grass
- C. mice

3. Read the following sentences from the text.

"[Burrowing owls] store food in their nests in the ground for their babies...

Many areas where these owls used to live are changing. People are moving there. People chase away the prairie dogs and fill in their holes and tunnels. The people build houses, stores, and offices. When that happens, burrowing owls have nowhere to live."

What do you know about burrowing owls from this information?

- A. Burrowing owls are now living in trees with their families.
- B. People are making it harder for burrowing owls to feed their babies.
- C. The most important thing for a burrowing owl is to make friends.

4. How are burrowing owls changing because of humans?

- A. They are making homes in barrels and pipes.
- B. They are eating leaves and grass.
- C. They are having more babies.

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. different kinds of owls
- B. burrowing owls and their homes
- C. prairie dogs and their homes