

### **What are owl pellets?**

Owls are birds of prey, meaning that they hunt other animals for their food. After an owl eats the small rodents, birds, and insects that are a part of its nightly diet, its stomach cannot digest certain parts of the animal, namely the fur, bones, teeth, feathers, and insect wing. These "extra" parts are formed into a tight pellet inside the owl that are later spat up by the bird.

Usually, a pellet is about as big as an adult thumb. They are often dissected by students and scientist to help them learn exactly what owls eat and what kinds of small animals and bugs live in a particular area. We should appreciate the presence of these Owls in our localities, they catch lots of mice during hunting, which is can be proven from the dozens of pellets under the trees.

### **How can we find gathering places for the Long-eared Owls during the winter time?**

Here are some tips to help you find the places where owls gather.

1. Go to the center of the city in which you are searching for the Long-eared Owls.
2. Search the courts of institutions (school, town hall, church) for clumps of thuja, spruces and firs. These are the places where the owls normally stay.
3. Look around the bottom of the trees where you suspect owls might be nesting.
4. If you have not yet found such a place, ask locals about large gatherings of owls. Most likely they will indicate a particular place (church, school, a local court). If you find birds, try to count them as accurately as you can and write the correct address of that place (even can mark the GPS coordinates if you have them), or write down all the details in the form.
5. If you have not yet found a gathering place for these birds, do not give up ... maybe it will be in the next city!
6. You can also find informations at the web site [www.milvus.ro](http://www.milvus.ro) or at the [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), the Owls of Romania group page.

**Thank you and we wish you good luck!**