



**Short-eared Owl**

During winter, just at twilight, the short-eared owl launches itself from its daytime roost in thick prairie grasses to hunt rodents. This raptor (bird that hunts and eats other animals) visits Oklahoma in winters when rodent populations are high. During the winter, these owls will form communal daytime roost sites much as the Northern Harrier forms nighttime roost sites. As the owls start their evening hunt, they often call to each other with a call that sounds like, “*keee-ow*” and you will also hear a bark-like call. The owl has a bouncy flight just over the grasses where it listens and looks for its prey. It can also hover above the grasses as it pinpoints a rodent before dropping down on it.