

# Northern Harrier Activity Book



**The Raptor Center**

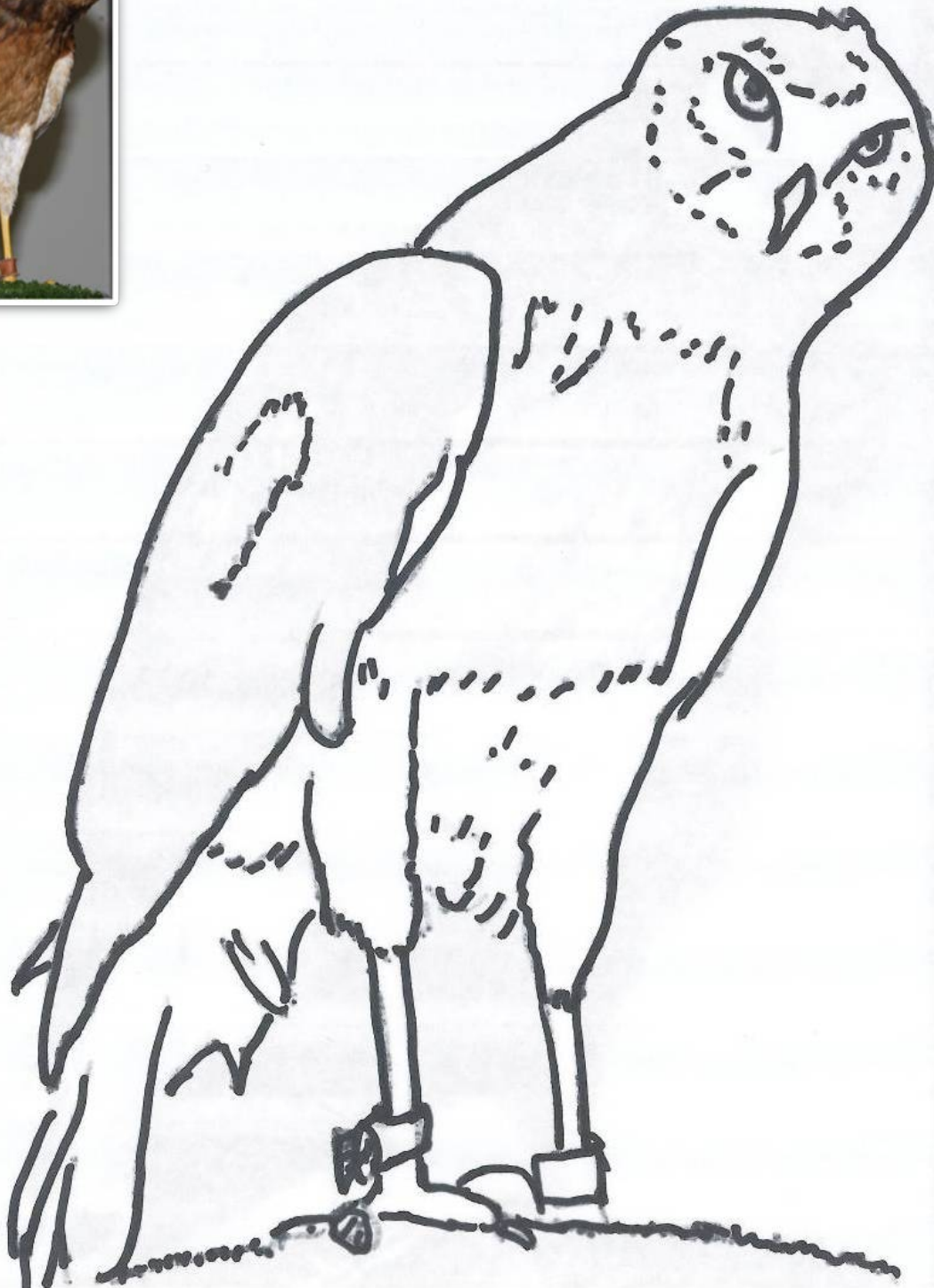
[www.TheRaptorCenter.org](http://www.TheRaptorCenter.org)

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# Northern Harrier Coloring Page



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# Northern Harrier Quick Facts Sheet

The Northern Harrier's scientific name is *Circus cyaneus*.

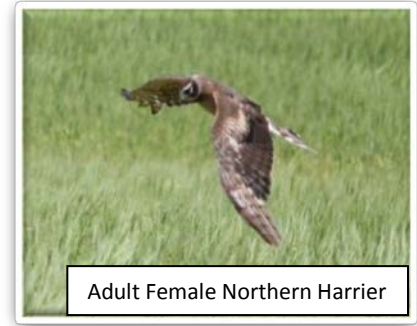
**Appearance:** Northern Harriers are slender raptors that have long wings, long tails and prominent white rump patches. They have long, unfeathered legs and owl-like facial disks.

Unlike most raptors, male and female Northern Harriers have different plumages (feather color and pattern).

Male coloring can best be described as grey when seen from above and whitish when seen from below. They also have black wing tips and bright yellow eyes.

The female's dark brown body has brown and white streaking in front and the brown tail is barred with dark stripes. The eyes turn from brown to pale yellow by about five years of age.

**Fun Fact!** Juvenile Northern Harriers resemble adult females, but they have a cinnamon brown breast and grayish brown eyes.



**Sound:** Its call is a high pitched "kek-kek-kek-kek." It is most vocal when near its nest or in courtship.

**Flight:** You will commonly see Northern Harriers flying close to the ground. They hold their long wings (3 ½ to 4 ½ feet from wingtip to wingtip) in a slight dihedral or "V" shape and fly with a series of flaps and a slight rocking or teetering motion.

**Fun Facts!** The Northern Harrier flight maneuverability impressed Britain's Royal Air Force so much they decided to name its Harrier aircraft after it!

**What it eats:** Northern Harriers primarily eat voles; however, they will also eat a wide variety of prey, including rodents, birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

**Fun Facts!** Voles make up such a large part of their diet, especially in the north, that when vole populations go down it affects Northern Harriers. One researcher called them the raptor "that is ruled by a mouse."

**How it hunts:** The Northern Harrier flies low over fields, meadows and marshes and relies on sudden surprise attacks to capture its prey. Although it has excellent vision, the Northern Harrier also uses its owl-like facial disc to help it locate its prey by sound.

**Fun Facts!** A female, after receiving prey in flight from the male, will make several false landings to confuse predators before she returns to her real nest.

**Where you will see one:** Look for them in grasslands, wet meadows and native prairies. This is the only type of Harrier found in North America.

**Fun Facts!** This is one of the few ground nesting raptors and they often nest in colonies



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# Northern Harrier Word Find

Find the words forward, backward, or diagonally!

Q	A	C	S	G	D	A	R	S	S	G	N	I	W	R	D	A	R	N	P	S	G	N
E	C	I	W	S	S	G	N	X	C	A	W	D	I	F	G	S	S	V	O	L	E	S
T	I	R	N	P	L	M	A	N	Y	A	N	P	N	P	T	C	N	E	S	C	A	N
U	R	S	A	B	X	E	D	V	A	S	D	S	S	G	N	Y	R	E	D	A	R	W
O	C	F	M	G	N	A	N	B	D	A	R	C	E	S	G	A	B	S	G	N	N	P
P	U	H	P	P	T	D	G	D	S	D	F	Y	C	K	R	E	P	T	I	L	E	S
L	S	K	H	S	G	O	H	N	E	P	T	A	T	U	K	N	E	S	A	N	W	C
J	C	L	I	N	P	W	S	G	N	R	C	V	S	Y	J	O	S	G	N	E	S	P
G	Y	W	B	A	S	S	J	F	A	N	H	R	T	N	E	S	M	S	K	P	C	A
D	A	E	I	S	C	K	D	A	R	J	Y	A	M	N	B	R	X	C	N	P	Y	L
A	N	F	A	D	Y	P	P	T	S	G	N	I	W	G	N	O	L	Y	W	H	A	E
Z	E	C	N	F	A	G	N	I	W	H	N	E	S	K	E	D	W	A	Q	C	N	G
C	U	S	S	N	E	S	G	N	F	N	F	M	T	S	G	E	I	O	P	T	M	R
B	S	C	S	E	I	R	I	A	R	P	E	V	I	T	A	N	D	A	R	A	G	A
M	D	B	S	G	D	A	R	R	G	N	I	W	S	Y	U	T	S	G	N	P	S	Y
N	F	A	C	I	A	L	D	I	S	C	V	J	C	N	P	S	N	B	C	P	C	W
V	S	G	N	I	W	P	T	E	G	K	G	N	Y	G	N	I	W	R	S	M	Y	E
X	C	S	S	G	N	I	Y	E	S	G	C	B	A	P	U	T	F	E	C	U	A	T
S	Y	C	N	P	Y	E	Q	W	G	R	A	S	S	L	A	N	D	S	Y	R	T	G
F	A	Y	A	N	W	O	G	N	I	W	S	D	V	N	P	X	S	D	A	E	S	V
H	K	A	G	O	U	D	A	R	K	B	R	O	W	N	G	N	C	B	I	T	U	C
K	J	H	L	P	T	N	P	S	G	N	A	S	N	E	S	P	Y	A	N	I	G	N
L	M	L	G	N	I	W	U	I	K	P	T	B	I	R	D	S	A	B	E	H	P	T
O	E	N	D	A	R	S	G	N	H	U	N	E	S	G	N	I	W	S	C	W	A	N
Y	N	E	S	G	R	O	U	N	D	N	E	S	T	E	R	A	N	D	A	R	C	G

Slender Hawk	Rodents	Meadows
Facial Disc	Birds	Native Prairies
White Rump Patch	Insects	Ground Nester
Long Wings	Reptiles	Pale Gray
Yellow Eyes	Amphibians	Dark Brown
Voles	Grasslands	Circus cyaneus



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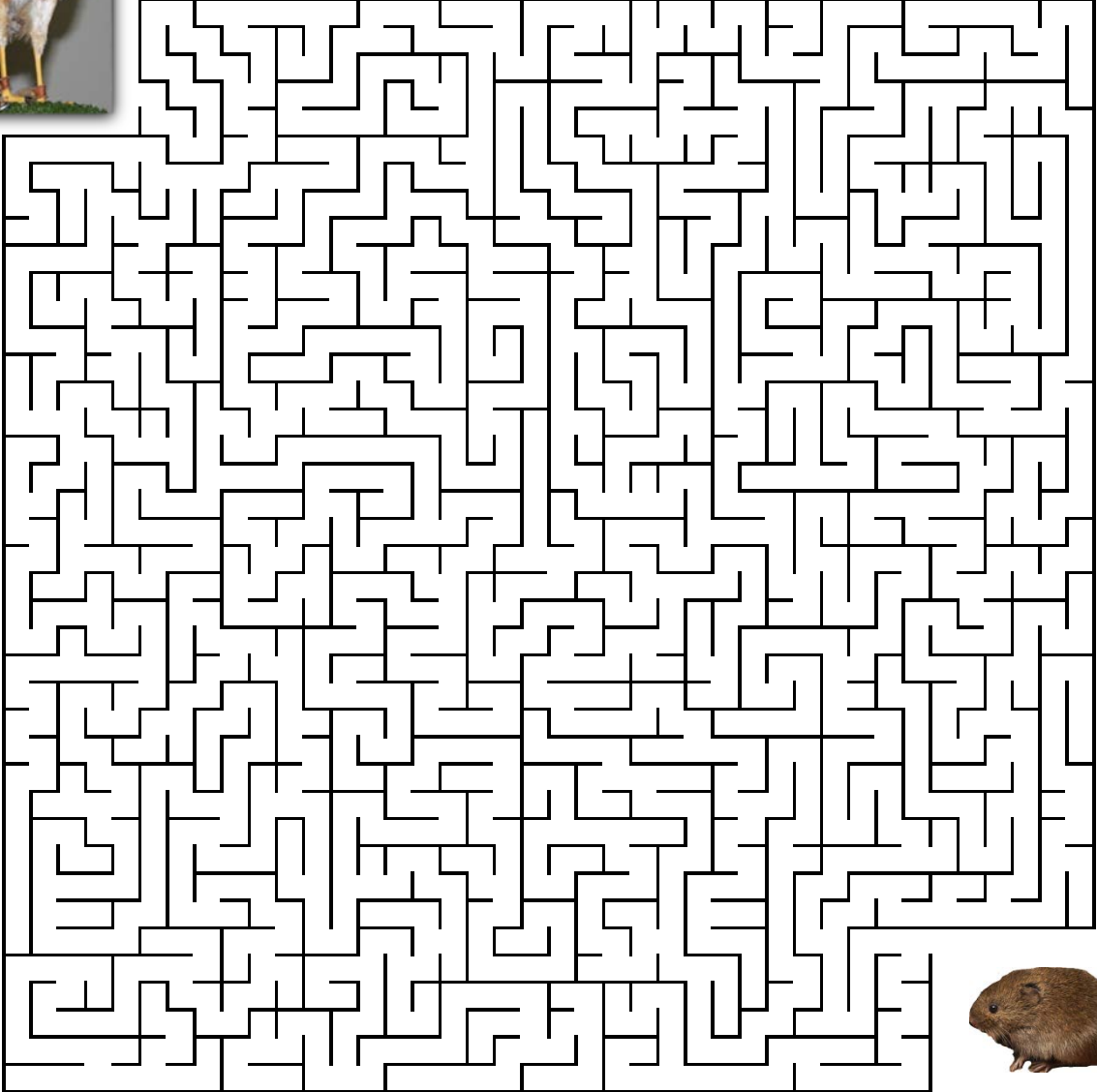
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# Northern Harrier Maze



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# Northern Harrier Hidden Message

Use the key below to learn a fun fact about the Northern Harrier's hearing.



4	12	11	2	20	3	23	
12	11	3	5	7	5	11	2
16	5	25	18	4	11	23	—
4	12	6	5	4	11	11	23
16	11	11	4	3	26	3	2

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	15	20	14	11	16	8	12	6	1	21	17	18	23	25	7	22	5	9	4	19	13	26	24	2	10



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## Northern Harrier Word Scramble

*Unscramble the words below to learn other names the Northern Harrier has been called.*

H E T H A R M S

— — — — — — — — —

K H W A R O

— — — — — — —

N H E

— — —

R I H R E R A

— — — — — — —



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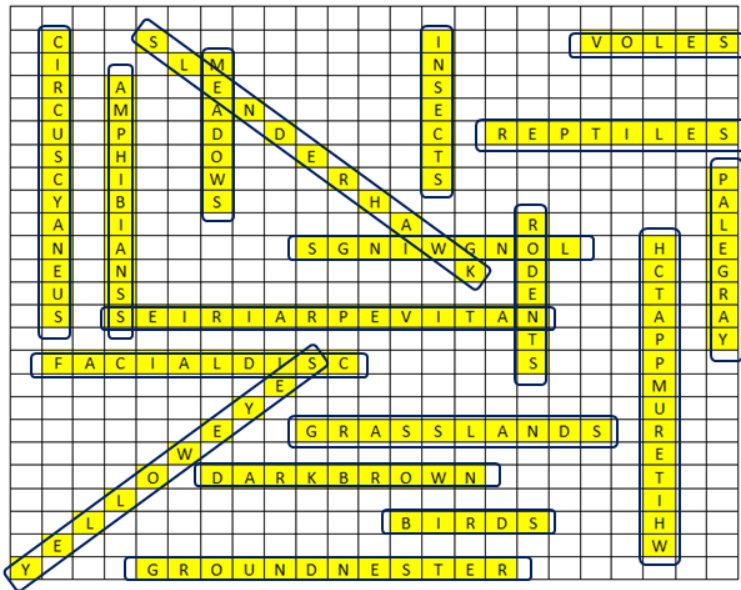
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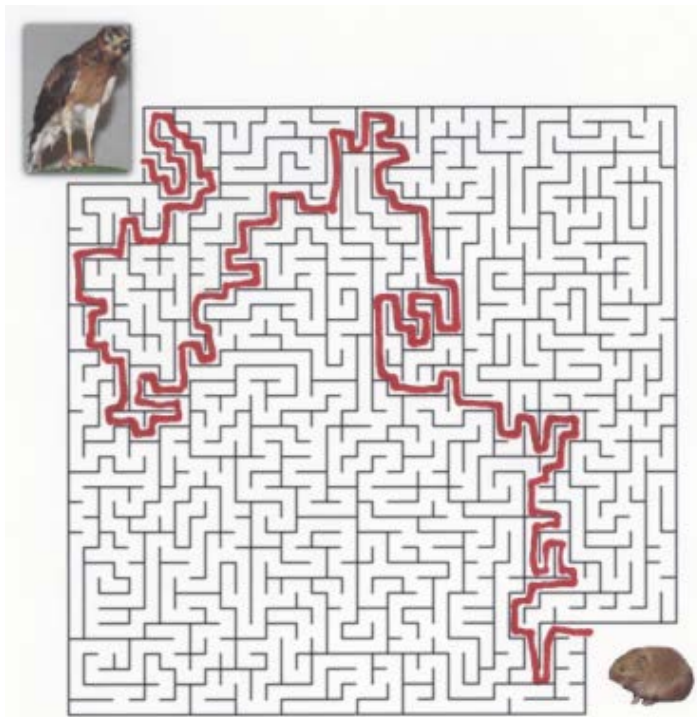
# Northern Harrier Activity Book - Answer Key



## Word Find



## Maze



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## Hidden Message

T	H	E	Y		C	A	N	
4	12	11	2		20	3	23	
H	E	A	R		P	R	E	Y
12	11	3	5		7	5	11	2
F	R	O	M		T	E	N	—
16	5	25	18		4	11	23	
T	H	I	R	T	E	E	N	
4	12	6	5	4	11	11	23	
F	E	E	T		A	W	A	Y
16	11	11	4		3	26	3	2



## Word Scramble

H	E	T		H	A	R	M	S
T	H	E		M	A	R	S	H
K	H	W	A		R	O		
H	A	W	K		O	R		
N	H	E						
H	E	N						
R	I	H	R	E	R	A		
H	A	R	R	I	E	R		



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