Name:_____

Lab Partner:_____

Owl Pellet Investigation

How many skulls do you predict you will find?_____

Unwrap the pellet. Examine and describe the exterior. (fur, feathers, bones, etc.)

Illustration	
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____

Measurement:

Length of pellet:_____

Width of pellet:_____

Mass of pellet:_____

Investigation:

1. Carefully use the toothpick to separate the fur and the bones.
2. Sort the bones into separate group types.
3. Record your findings on the chart.
4. Use the bone chart to help you identify the bones.

Record your findings

Bone	Sketch	Number found
Skull		
Jaw (mandible)		
Scapula		
Humerus		
Radius/Ulna		
Femur		
Fibula/Tibia		
Pelvic bone		
Rib		
Vertebrae		

What is the **maximum** number of bones found?_____

What is the **minimum** number of bones found?_____

What is the **range**?_____

What is the **class average** of number of skulls found in a pellet?_____

Using the **class average**, how many animals are consumed:

Per day:_____
Per week:_____
Per month:_____
Per year:_____

Analysis:

1. How can we determine the diet of an owl by examining a pellet?_____

2. Based on the number of skulls found in your pellet, how many animals were consumed by the owl?_____

3. How do the bones found in an owl pellet give us clues about the owl's habitat?_____

_____

4. What would you expect to find in the pellet of a bird that lives by the ocean?_____

SKULL

MANDIBLE

METACARPALS

SCAPULA

RADIUS

HUMERUS

ULNA

RIBS

VERTEBRA

FEMUR

INNOMINATE

FIBULA

TIBIA

SACRUM

CAUDAL VERTEBRA

METATARSALS