Soarigami: SHORT-EARED OWL

Folding Guide

- Long dashes show a Mountain fold
- Shorter dashes show a Valley fold
- Dots show a fold and unfold to crease the paper
- Scissors show a cut

The Plane

1) Color in the bird with crayons or colored pencils. Short-eared owls are usually a gray or light brown color, but you can make your owl however you like.
2) Cut off the top edge of the paper if there is a space between the large dash lines and edge of the paper.
3) Fold on the long dash lines, starting from the top and rolling the paper under, when you are done it the top should look like a flattened tube. Tape this down.
4) Fold along the centerline.
5) Do a valley fold on either side of the center fold to give the plane a back fin.
6) Fold each wing tip down along the long dash lines.
7) Cut flaps along the scissors lines.
8) Put two paperclips on the front edge between the beak and wing tips.
9) Bend a paper clip as pictured and clip and tape it to the beak of the owl.
10) Launch your owl by hooking a rubber band over the bent paper clip and pulling back on the fin. Let go and the owl should ride just above the ground on a cushion of air. Adjust the flaps and clips until it works just right.

The Bird

Short-eared owls hunt by riding on the air it traps under its unflapping wings like a hovercraft. It saves energy and lets them ride just above a field or snow to listen for mice scurrying. Owls can even hear a mouse's heartbeat! Their ears may be short, but they are powerful!

Other birds use this flying style to save energy when migrating over water or other relatively flat surfaces.