

THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

January 25-29, 2010



Burrowing owls are found at prairie dog towns, like the one at Midland Air Park north of Midland College. They are clowns. If defending food, they curtsy. Before flying, they chatter—kack-kack-kack-kack. When peaceful they coo like doves. If flightless young are approached they back into the burrow, imitating rattlesnakes with clacking noises. Upon emergence they slowly reveal the top of their head, then their yellow eyes. To discourage mammalian predators the adult owls collect animal dung to flagstone the entrance.

To learn more visit;

http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/birds/000910_burrowingowls.html

And

http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/mammals/000730_burrowingowls.html