

## Barn Owl

*Tyto alba*

The only member in BC of the family Tytonidae ("barn owls") and genus *Tyto*, this species is one of the most widely distributed globally but has limited distribution in BC. The scientific name literally means "white owl". Of all the owl species it may have the greatest number of common name variations including Demon Owl, Monkey-faced Owl, Hissing Owl, Hobgoblin or Hobby Owl.



Adult Marie O'Shaughnessy



Nestlings ("owlets") Lorraine  
Andrusiak



Nestlings ("owlets") Wikipedia



Adult Wikipedia



Adult Caroline Astley

## Characteristics

A slender owl with tawny to golden-brown dorsal plumage with varying amounts of gray. Breast and belly plumage ranges from white to buff and is sparsely to heavily speckled with small black spots. The head lacks ear tufts and has relatively small dark eyes and a distinctive heart-shaped, white to buff facial disk. The legs are long and sparsely feathered, wings long and rounded with a short rounded tail. As with many raptors, sexes differ with females being larger and heavier. As well females are darker, and more heavily speckled than males. Owlets are covered in fluffy snow-white down which becomes similar to adult plumage as they mature.

## Status

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Global Status:</b>     | G5   |
| <b>Provincial Status:</b> | S2?  |
| <b>SARA Status:</b>       | Special Concern  |
| <b>BC List Status:</b>    | Red (Candidates for- Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status) |

## Resources

**[Anticoagulant Rodenticides in Three Owl Species from Western Canada, 1988–2003](#)**

**[FARMING WITH BARN OWLS IN BC - BEST LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES](#)**

## For further information see

**[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)**

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

**[British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern](#)**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the

Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

**Develop With Care Guidelines (see specific BMP's for raptors)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

**Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

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**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/barn-owl>

**Links**

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/65>

[2] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/anti%20coagulatn%20rodenticides%20in%20three%20owl%20species-western%20canada\\_a%20albert%20et%20al%202009.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/anti%20coagulatn%20rodenticides%20in%20three%20owl%20species-western%20canada_a%20albert%20et%20al%202009.pdf)

[3] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/Farming%20with%20Barn%20Owls%20in%20BC%20\\_May%202020.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/Farming%20with%20Barn%20Owls%20in%20BC%20_May%202020.pdf)

[4] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[5] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[6] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[7] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>