

# Barn Owl

*Tyto alba*



Photo: Bruce Di Labio



Photo: D. Tipling



## PROVINCIAL STATUS

Endangered

## DESCRIPTION

- crow-sized bird of prey
- tawny above, white below
- white heart-shaped face, dark eyes, no ear tufts
- long legged

## VOCALIZATION

- shrill rasping hiss or snore, *ksch* or *shiiish*

## PREFERRED HABITAT

- open spaces

## MIGRATION

- occasional

## WINTERING GROUNDS

- southeast USA north to Lake Erie
- mid-west USA

## LOCAL POPULATION

- very rare or stray

## THREATS

- pesticide accumulation
- habitat destruction (nesting sites in old buildings, barns)
- loss of nesting sites such as cavity trees

## NICHE INFORMATION

- eats mostly rodents, especially voles
- rarely eaten by Great Horned Owls, raccoons
- active at dusk and through the night
- lives in grasslands, deserts, marshes and farmland
- nests in buildings and tree cavities

## WHAT WE CAN DO

- reduce pesticide use
- retain some old buildings
- install nest boxes in suitable habitat

