

# 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

