

Short-eared Owl

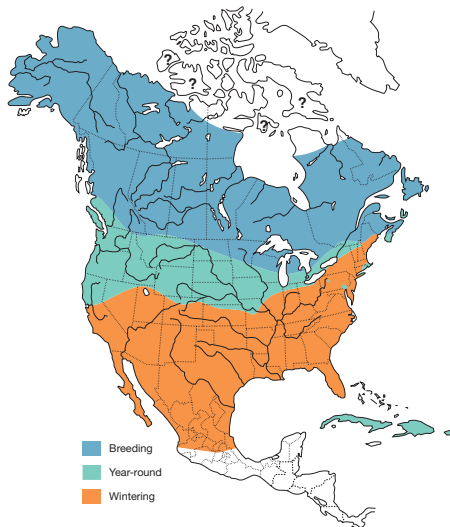
Asio flammeus



Photo: Brandon Holden



Photo: Brandon Holden



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Special Concern

DESCRIPTION

- crow-sized bird of prey
- dark with buffy patch at end of wing (shows in flight)
- dark face discs, yellow eyes
- deep wing beats

VOCALIZATION

- emphatic sneezy bark, *kee-you!* or *wow!* or *waow!*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- wetland and open spaces

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: late May
Fall departure: early November

WINTERING GROUNDS

- Great Lakes
- plains of southern Saskatchewan
- USA south along Mississippi River

LOCAL POPULATION

- rare migrant through Renfrew County

THREATS

- habitat destruction and alteration
- intensive agricultural practices

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats rodents, voles, mice
- eaten by hawks, Great Horned Owl, fox, raccoons
- active at dawn and dusk
- lives in meadows, marshes, open fields and prairies
- nests on ground in low vegetation

WHAT WE CAN DO

- prevent destruction of habitat
- appreciate the role birds of prey have in reducing pest species

