

Barred Owl

Strix varia

Description

The Barred owl is a large owl native to North America. They have been around for a very long time, with fossils dating up to 11,000 years old having been found in Ontario, Tennessee and Florida. They are non-migratory birds; they tend to live in a defined area for their whole lives, rarely wandering from their home territories except in search of food during winters when local food is scarce. Barred owls are 40-63 cm long, weigh in at 500-1500 and have a wingspan of 96-125 cm. As with other birds of prey, the female is significantly larger in size than the male. Even more distinctive than their size is their appearance. They are stocky greyish brown birds with large rounded heads, no ear tufts, and large dark brown eyes. They have medium-length rounded tails which, like their wings, are barred in brown and white. Their bellies are marked with vertical brown bars on a whitish background, while their upper breast has horizontal brown bars, as if they are wearing a collar at the neck.

FUN FACTS

- Fossils from Ontario, Tennessee and Florida indicate that Barred Owls have been around for up to 11,000 years.
- They live near water as they drink water and bathe when open water is available even during the winter.
- Barred Owls are vocal birds with a variety of calls. Most commonly heard is 8 or 9 hoots giving them the name "Hoot Owl"
- Barred Owls can be preyed on by Great Horned Owls!

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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