

Barred Owl

(*Strix varia*)

FIELD MARKS: Round-headed, eyes brown, bill yellow. Facial disk whitish/brown with dark brown trim. Ventrally, a short bib across neck and upper chest, marked with horizontal brown barring. Chest, sides, and belly vertically streaked with dark brown on white. Dorsally, mottled brown and white. **SIZE:** 19 to 21 inches. **WEIGHT:** 22 to 29 ounces (one to two pounds). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great gray owl has yellow eyes, is larger, has a long tail, and is gray.

HABITAT: A wide range of habitats, especially wet areas and deep woods. **VOICE:** "Who, who, who-whooo..." usually given at least twice. Loud and resounding. **NATURAL HISTORY:** Begins nesting March to April. Nests in broken-topped snags, natural cavities, and old stick nests built by other birds. Clutch size two to four. Incubation approximately 30 days. Young fledge at 35 to 40 days. Probably year-round resident. **FOOD HABITS:** Small to medium-sized mammals and birds. **STATUS:** Appears to be increasing. First nest found in Montana in 1976. Very little known about biology, ecology, and distribution in Montana.

