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-whoo..." 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.