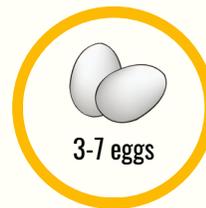
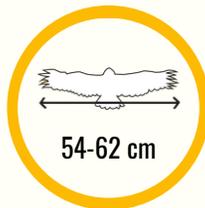




Boreal Owl

Nyctale de Tengmalm, *Aegolius funereus*



IDENTIFICATION

A small nordic owl, its plumage is chocolate-brown spotted with white. It has a small, stocky body, a short tail and a square shaped head. The top of its dark brown head is dotted with small white spots. Its black-edged facial disk and pale beak distinguish it from the Northern Saw-whet Owl.



21-28 cm

ECOLOGY

Nutrition

It feeds mainly on small rodents, especially voles, but occasionally on insects and birds. It is nocturnal but may occasionally hunt during the day. It hunts by ambush. Like other owls, it spits out a pellet containing the indigestible hair and bones of its prey.

Breeding

It builds its nest inside a natural cavity in a tree or an old woodpecker hole. The female incubates her eggs for 4 to 5 weeks. The young take flight for the first time at around 5 weeks, and are fed by the parents for a further 5 to 6 weeks.

DISTRIBUTION

This little owl frequents our southern Quebec regions only in winter, when rodents become too hard to find in northern regions. It lives in coniferous or mixed forests and taiga, preferably in mountainous regions.

STATUS AND POPULATION

The Christmas Bird Count indicates that the population in Canada has greatly increased since the 1970s. However, these results are insufficient to establish the long-term status of the national population. It may be vulnerable to the loss of mature forests. The species is classified secure.¹

¹ Wild species of Canada report, 2015

