

# Barred Owl

Resident Species

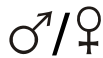
Chouette rayée  
*Strix varia*



Wingspan: 102 cm to 127 cm



The Barred Owl is the most common owl in Quebec. Difficult to spot, it is mostly its characteristic hoot that alerts us to its presence. As its name indicates, its plumage is barred: its chest, back and wings are marked with horizontal brown stripes, and its stomach with vertical brown stripes. Its large round head does not have any everts. Its large dark eyes are dark brown, almost black.



The male and female are similar.



The Barred Owl lives primarily in mature mixed forests or deciduous forests with a nearby clearing for hunting.



Her diet is primarily composed of voles and other rodents, but she can also prey upon birds, reptiles or amphibians, according to availability. The Barred Owl is mostly nocturnal, but it is possible to hear her song in daytime.



The Barred Owl can live between 18 and 23 years.



The female searches for natural cavities in trees or for the old nest of a buzzard, crow or even squirrel. The female lays 2 to 3 eggs.



The young make their first flight attempt around 6 weeks of age, but they remain dependant on their parents up to 4 months after taking flight.



The Barred Owl has suffered many intensive clear-cuttings of its habitat. In addition, this species is very sensitive to the environmental disruptions and damages caused by human activity.



All birds of prey will regurgitate a « pellet » between meals. These are balls of bones, teeth, fur and feathers; the indigestible parts of the bird's prey. The pellet is regurgitated 16 to 18 hours after a meal. The nocturnal birds of prey are often difficult to spot, but it is possible to detect their presence by searching for their pellets, which have fallen at the foot of the trees. If several pellets are found under the same tree, you have probably found the bird's favourite place to rest!