

Owl Nesting Sites

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Time / Location</u>
Barn Owl	February to late November; tree cavities or cliffs, ledges in barns, abandoned buildings or towers
Short-eared Owl	Mid-March through late June; nests on ground in concealed vegetation, occasionally uses burrows
Long-eared Owl	Late February through mid-July; abandoned crow, hawk, or squirrel nests, occasionally nests on the ground
Great Horned Owl	Late February through late April; abandoned hawk, eagle, or crow nests in hardwood trees or conifers, also may use cavities in cliffs, occasionally nests on the ground
Great Gray Owl	Late May through late July; abandoned hawk nests high in trees, prefers conifers
Snowy Owl	Mid-May through late September; nests on the ground, rocky surfaces, or cliffs
Barred Owl	Mid-December through late September; tree cavities, or in abandoned crow, hawk, or squirrel nests, occasionally nests on the ground or in low shrubs
Boreal Owl	Late March through July; tree cavities, prefers conifers
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Early March through July; tree cavities
Flammulated Owl	Early March through mid-August; tree cavities, prefers conifers
Northern Pygmy Owl	Early April through late June; tree cavities
Northern Hawk Owl	Late March through August; tree cavities or abandoned nests
Eastern Screech Owl	Early March through early September; tree cavities predominantly in deciduous and mixed woods, nest boxes
Burrowing Owl	Mid-March through August; excavated burrows, burrows made by prairie dogs, skunks, foxes, or badgers
Western Screech Owl	Early May through June; tree cavities predominantly in deciduous and mixed woods, nest boxes

Owls: A Wildlife Handbook, Johnson Nature Series, 1998, Kim Long, p.133.

Owl nesting times from:

The Owl and the Woodpecker, 2008, Paul Bannick, The Mountaineers Books, p. 186–190.

Species listing order from *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, 2007, Edward S. Brinkley, National Wildlife Federation

Primary and Secondary cavity species webs

(modified from Fenger et al., 2006, Figure 14, p. 32)

Primary Cavity Excavator, minimum tree width, cm. diameter	Cavity Secondary Cavity User entrance	
Pileated Woodpecker 40 cm.	8–10 by 10–15 (elliptical)	Northern Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl
Northern Flicker 30 cm.	6.5	Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl
Hairy Woodpecker 25 cm.	4.5	Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl

Wildlife & Trees in British Columbia, 2006, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and Lone Pine Publishing, Mike Fenger et al.

Cavities made by Sapsuckers and Downy Woodpeckers (at 4 cm. diameter) and used by Tree Swallows, House Wrens and mice, are likely too small to be used by most owls.

Woodpecker nesting times (from Bannick, 2008, p. 192 & 194)

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	Early March through mid-July
Red-Naped Sapsucker	Mid-March through early August
Downy Woodpecker	Early April until late July
Hairy Woodpecker	Mid-March through July
Northern Flicker	Late April through early August
Pileated Woodpecker	Early May through mid-July

Owl Habitats

<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Species</u>
Desert scrub	Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl
Grassland	Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Short-eared Owl
Hardwood	Barred Owl, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl
Mixed Conifer	Flammulated Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Short-eared Owl, Western Screech Owl
Open Woods	Northern Hawk Owl
Riparian Woods	Long-eared Owl
Spruce-Fir	Flammulated Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Western Screech Owl
Tundra	Snowy Owl

Owls: A Wildlife Handbook, Johnson Nature Series, 1998, Kim Long, p.146.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Roosting, nesting and hunting habitats</u>
Barn Owl	open grasslands, deserts, marshes, agricultural areas, abandoned buildings and urban areas; nocturnal
Short-eared Owl	open grasslands, tundra, subalpine meadows, forest clearings, marshes, sloughs and agricultural fields; diurnal
Long-eared Owl	roosts in thick deciduous and coniferous forests, hunts in open meadows, grasslands and farmlands; nocturnal
Great Horned Owl	deserts, grasslands, wetlands, open woodlands, farm fields and treed urban areas; mostly nocturnal
Great Gray Owl	dense boreal forests with small openings, western coniferous woodlands; diurnal
Snowy Owl	open rolling tundra, wet coastal or inland meadows, treeless prairie, grasslands, farm fields, meadows and marshes; diurnal

<u>Species</u>	<u>Roosting, nesting and hunting habitats</u>
Barred Owl	mature or old-growth mixed deciduous and coniferous forests; mostly nocturnal
Boreal Owl	mixed coniferous and deciduous boreal forests and western subalpine coniferous forests; nocturnal
Northern Saw-whet Owl	found in most woodlands, favoring mature or old-growth coniferous forested riparian habitats; nocturnal
Flammulated Owl	cool, dry open forests of conifers or aspens, especially ponderosa pines; nocturnal
Northern Pygmy Owl	a wide range of deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests, low elevation riparian woodlands; diurnal
Northern Hawk Owl	coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests, favoring forest edges and open areas such as muskeg bogs, meadows and old burns; diurnal
Eastern Screech Owl	a wide range of coniferous and deciduous forests, including treed urban areas with nest cavities or bird boxes; nocturnal
Burrowing Owl	dry, open areas with short vegetation or bare ground; nocturnal
Western Screech Owl	a wide variety of deciduous woodlands and mixed forests, favoring deciduous riparian habitats, also treed urban areas; nocturnal

Owls of North America, 2008, Frances Backhouse, Firefly Books Ltd., p. 121–198.

Owls of the United States and Canada, A Complete Guide to Their Biology and Behavior, 2007, Wayne Lynch, UBC Press, p. 25–34.