



## barred owl

*Strix varia*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class: Aves  
Order: Strigiformes  
Family: Strigidae

## FEATURES

An adult barred owl is 18 to 22 inches long. The male and female are similar in appearance. This large, gray-brown bird has a rounded head and large brown eyes. There are white spots on its back. The chest is cream with horizontal brown stripes, and the belly is cream with brown vertical stripes. It has a yellow beak.

## BEHAVIORS

The barred owl is a common, permanent resident statewide in Illinois. It lives in upland woods, conifers, bottomland forests or swamps. This bird consumes mostly mice but also eats amphibians, birds, crayfish, fishes, insects, mammals and reptiles. Its call is a series of consecutive "hoots" which sound something like "who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all." This owl is mainly a nocturnal bird. Nesting occurs from February through April. The nest may be placed in a tree cavity or an old hawk's nest. Two or three round, white eggs are laid.

## HABITATS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan                 | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes                       | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands                     |  |

## ILLINOIS STATUS

- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common        | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered    | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> |                                     |

## ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.