

Owl Answer Key

Aegolius funereus (Code 5/E)

Boreal Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Boreal_Owl/id

A small owl of boreal and montane forests, the Boreal Owl is found throughout Alaska and Canada, and across northern Eurasia, as well. It is found in the lower 48 states only in the mountains of the West, in extreme northern Minnesota, and as an occasional winter visitor to the northern states.

Adult Description

- * Small owl.
- * No ear tufts.
- * White face outlined in black.
- * Fine spots on top of head.
- * Underparts dirty white, streaked with brown.
- * Bill yellow.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=8339>

Aegolius acadicus (Code 9/I)

Northern Saw-whet Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Saw-whet_Owl/id

A small owl of all types of woodlands, the Northern Saw-whet Owl can be found roosting in winter in small, dense conifer trees, sometimes even in parks and gardens. Its defense upon discovery is to sit still and not fly, leading people to perceive them as "tame."

Adult Description

- * Small owl.
- * No ear tufts.
- * Face white, outlined in brown and white.
- * Underparts white streaked with brown.
- * Eyes yellow.
- * Bill black.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=111096>

Megascops kennicottii (Code 6/F)

Western Screech-Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Screech-Owl/id

A common small owl of the West, the Western Screech-Owl can be found in urban as well as wild lands.

Adult Description

- * A small owl.
- * Feathered ear tufts.
- * Gray or gray-brown with small black streaks on feathers.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=45181>

Megascops asio (Code 2/B)

Eastern Screech-Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Screech-Owl/id

The Eastern Screech-Owl is found in nearly every habitat throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada. It is common in urban as well as rural areas and readily nests in nest boxes.

Adult Description

- * Small owl.
- * Feathered ear tufts.
- * Gray, brownish gray, or reddish-brown.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=20427>

Megascops trichopsis (Code 1/A)

Whiskered Screech-Owl (New Mexico, Arizona)

Picture: <http://www.owlpages.com/image.php?image=species-Megascops-trichopsis-2>

Info: http://www.owling.com/Whskr_nh.htm

The smallest of the three Screech-Owls that occur in North America. All three Screech-Owls are very similar in appearance and can only positively be distinguished in the field by their call (see the Western Screech-Owl biology for the visual differences of all three owls). The Eastern and Whiskered Screech-Owls have no overlap in range in North America.... The ear tufts are conspicuous when raised. Its facial "whiskers" give rise to the owl's name. These bristles are more numerous and longer (extending well beyond the bill) than in the other Screech-Owls. The owl is generally brownish-gray above with dark brown and white mottling, short streaks or spots. Under parts are dull white with dark brownish-gray streaks and crossbars. The iris is lemon-yellow and the bill is yellow to grayish or greenish-yellow.

In general the Whiskered Screech-Owl is found at higher elevations than the Western Screech...it is resident down into the Pine / Oak zone of the Montane habitat.... The primary foods of the Whiskered Screech are insects with only a single record of a vertebrate (mouse) found in the stomach content of an owl. The insects of choice are usually flying although centipedes seem to be an important winter food. Also taken are moths, beetles, spiders, and grasshoppers. Usually hunts from a perch in a tree where it will fly out to catch winged prey although may also fly back and forth in tops of trees catching multiple insects.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=112622>

Strix nebulosa (Code 8/H)

Great Gray Owl

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great Gray Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Gray_Owl/id)

A huge owl of the boreal forest and western mountains, the Great Gray Owl feeds on rather small rodent prey.

Adult Description

- * Very large gray owl.
- * Round head without ear tufts.
- * Black and white "bowtie" under face.
- * Eyes yellow.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=4543>

Strix varia (Code 4/D)

Barred Owl

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/id)

A large owl of extensive woodlands, the Barred Owl is familiar for its distinctive "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all" hooting.

Adult Description

- * Large owl.
- * Head round with no ear tufts.
- * Eyes dark.
- * Underparts whitish with dark streaks.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=125364>

Bubo scandiacus (Code 3/C)

Snowy Owl

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy_Owl/id)

At the extreme northern margins of the arctic tundra lives the Snowy Owl, the northernmost, heaviest, and most distinctively marked owl of North America. Largely diurnal, it spends much of its time perched still and silent on prominent lookouts, waiting to make forays for prey.

Adult Description

- * Large, white owl.
- * Some dark barring.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=9435>

Bubo virginianus (Code 10/J)

Great Horned Owl

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great Horned Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/id)

Found from the Arctic tundra to the tropical rainforest, from the desert to suburban backyards, the Great Horned Owl is one of the most widespread and common owls in North America.

Adult Description

- * Large owl.
- * Prominent ear tufts widely spaced on head.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=22874>

Tyto alba (Code 7/G)

Barn Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barn_Owl/id

The Barn Owl is one of the most widely distributed birds in the world, found on all continents except Antarctica, and on many oceanic islands as well. It has been introduced by people to some of the few places it did not already occur, namely Hawaii, the Seychelles Islands, and Lord Howe Island.

Adult Description

- * Medium-sized owl.
- * White or mostly white underside.
- * Heart-shaped, white face.
- * Back tawny, marked with black and white spots.
- * Long legs.
- * Eyes dark.
- * Round head without ear tufts.

Call: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/ravenViewer.do?id=8319>