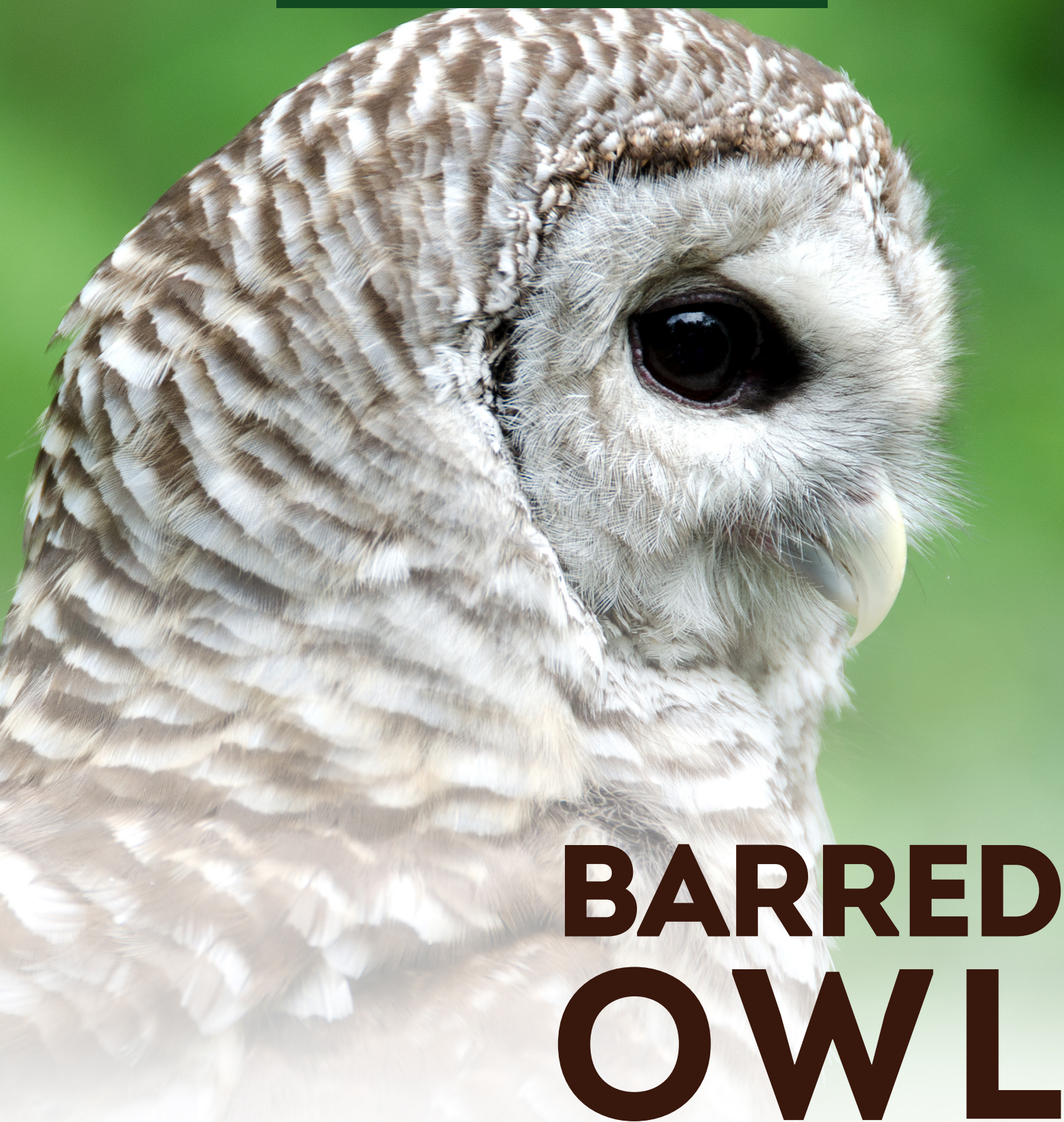


THE ARBORETUM AT PENN STATE



BARRED OWL

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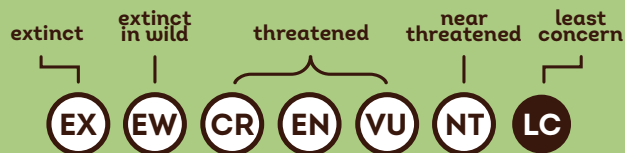
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NAME: *Strix varia*

CONSERVATION STATUS:



SIZE: 1.7 feet

WEIGHT: 2–3 pounds

GROUP TERM: parliament

NUMBER OF YOUNG: 1–5

HABITAT: old-growth forest

LIFESPAN: 4 years

DISTRIBUTION:



BARRED OWL

DESCRIPTION

Known as the “eight-hooter” for its distinctive call (*Who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you, all?*), the Barred Owl is the fourth largest species of owl in North America. With its gray striping and dark eyes, this bird is a master of camouflage, often invisible against the coniferous trees of old-growth forests. Found in Pennsylvania year-round, the Barred Owl may begin breeding as early as March, settling into tree hollows or overtaking the previous home of other species (including squirrels, crows, and hawks) that have not yet begun to nest.

DIET

Barred Owls are generalists, primarily eating meadow voles and supplementing their diet with small mammals, reptiles, insects, and the occasional songbird.

THREATS

Barred Owls are high on the food chain, threatened only by the Great Horned Owl and occasionally the Golden Eagle. Because they have few predators and a willingness to live in close proximity to humans, Barred Owl populations are stable across North America.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Like all owls, the Barred Owl has asymmetrically-placed ears, allowing it to better pinpoint its prey.
- The Barred Owl is one of only eight North American owls (out of 38) with brown eyes.
- As it expands westward, the Barred Owl is displacing the Spotted Owl (listed as “Near Threatened” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature), causing concern that the latter species may eventually become extinct.

“Barred Owl.” *Explore Raptors*. The Peregrine Fund, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.

“Barred Owl.” *All About Birds*. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.

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