

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://www.sccp.ca>)

### Western Screech Owl *kennicottii* ssp.

*Megascops kennicottii kennicottii*

A member of the family Strigidae (“typical owls”), western forms were long thought to be one in the same species (conspecific) as Eastern Screech Owl (*M. asio*). It was not until the late 1960’s that Western Screech Owl was designated as a separate species.



Adult from Fraser Valley Gord  
Gadsden



Adult Laura Santry Wikipedia



Adult with ear tufts not easily visible  
USFWS



Juvenile ("Owlet") Dr. Lloyd Glen  
Ingles



This species prefers intact riparian  
habitat Pamela Zevit

## Characteristics

A small owl with yellow eyes, a small beak and black eyebrow ridges that lead up in a “Y” configuration to short ear tufts on the corners of the head. The head is crowned with a triangular russet and black cap that follows the eyebrow ridge to the ear tufts. A master of arboreal camouflage, the white to pale-grey plumage is streaked with black and brown making it difficult to see against tree trunks or cavities where it generally roosts and nests. The coastal subspecies tends to have greater brown colouration while the interior subspecies is greyer. As with most raptors, females are generally larger and heavier than males. Northern subspecies are often larger and heavier than the southern subspecies.

## Status

<b>Global Status:</b>	G5T4
<b>Provincial Status:</b>	S3
<b>SARA Status:</b>	Special Concern
<b>BC List Status:</b>	Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

## Resources

[Declining Numbers of Western Screech Owl in the Lower Mainland of BC](#)

[Observations of Two Species at Risk in Mainland Southwestern BC - Huttons Vireo & Western Screech Owl](#)

**For further information see**

[Develop With Care 2014 Factsheet #12 Western Screech Owl](#)

Scroll down to the bottom of the DWC site to access the factsheet

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

## **British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

## **Develop With Care Guidelines (see specific raptor BMP's and WSOW factsheet)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

## **Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

## **Credits**

First edition prepared in 2010 by Pamela Zevit for the South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) with Jamie Fenneman in partnership with: International Forest Products (Interfor), Capacity Forestry (CapFor). Original funding was made possible through the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**. Revised 2015 by Isabelle Houde, RPBio in consultation with the SCCP.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/western-screech-owl-kennicotii-ssp>

### **Links**

[1] <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare/index.html>

[2] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[3] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[4] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>

[5] <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

[6] <mailto:info@sccp.ca>