

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

Global Status:	G5T4
Provincial Status:	S3
SARA Status:	Special Concern
BC List Status:	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](#)

[Coastal Western Screech-owl Surveys and Habitat Assessment for Habitat Acquisition Trust Victoria, BC](#)

The overall project goal is to identify sites suitable for the protection and/or improvement of habitat for the Western Screech-owl (*Megascops kennicottii kennicottii*).

[Our Owls, Our Neighbours Being Owl Wise HAT's Western Screech Owl Project](#)

Stewardship Series Issue 5: Fall 2016.

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

Owl Nest Box Monitoring - Fraser Valley

In 2016, in collaboration with Madrone Environmental and other interested biologists, the Fraser Valley Conservancy implemented a Western Screech-owl nest box program to provide alternate nest sites in forested habitats where natural nest cavities were lacking. This program was based on a similar successful program initiated on Vancouver Island. The intent is to install nest boxes and monitor their use along with population data, with all the data shared in an online database.

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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Links

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

[2] <http://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/stewardship/owl-nest-box-monitoring>

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

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

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

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

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