Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa). Photo by R.E. Gehlert.

Long-eared Owl (Asio otus). Photo of pair at nest by R.E. Gehlert.

Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus). Photo at Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba, Canada, by Gerry Jones.
Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). Photo by Patricia and Greg Hayward.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus* *acadicus*). Photo near Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA, by Matthew Rowe.

Northern Saw-whet Owl, Queen Charlotte Island race (*Aegolius acadicus brooksi*). Photo by Matthew Rowe.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INVITED SPEAKERS

Official Opening Remarks: Manitoba Natural Resources  
Merlin W. Shoesmith ......................................................... 1

Official Opening Remarks: Manitoba’s Biodiversity and Sustainable Development  
Brian C. Gillespie ............................................................... 3

Official Opening Remarks: Bird Conservation in Canada  
Michael S.W. Bradstreet ..................................................... 4

## BANQUET SPEAKER

Remaining Choices  
Katherine McKeever ........................................................ 6

Summary and Concluding Remarks  
Richard J. Clark .............................................................. 11

## SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

The Hunting Behavior of Eastern Screech-owls (*Otus asio*)  
Carlo M. Abbruzzese and Gary Ritchison ................................ 21

Albinism in the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and Other Owls  
Pentti Alaja and Heimo Mikkola ........................................ 33

Breeding Biology of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia  
Lorraine A. Andrusiak and K.M. Cheng .................................. 38

Dispersal Movements of Juvenile Mexican Spotted Owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) in New Mexico  
David P. Arsenault, Angela Hodgson, and Peter B. Stacey ............... 47

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) Mortality Along Motorways in Bourgogne-Champagne: Report and Suggestions  
Hugues Baudvin .................................................................. 58

Corticosterone and Dispersal in Western Screech-owls (*Otus keni cottii*)  
James R. Belthoff and Alfred M. Dufty, Jr. ............................ 62

Food Habits of the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) at Six Nest Sites in Washington’s East Cascades  
Kenneth R. Bevis, Jo Ellen Richards, Gina M. King, and Eric E. Hanson .................................................. 68

Autumn Migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in the Middle Atlantic and Northeastern United States: What Observations from 1995 Suggest  
David F. Brinker, Katharine E. Duffy, David M. Whalen, Bryan D. Watts, and Kevin M. Dodge .............................. 74

A Spatial Analysis of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) Population in Santa Clara County, California, Using a Geographic Information System  
Janis Taylor Buchanan .......................................................... 90

Modeling Critical Habitat for Flammulated Owls (*Otus flammeolus*)  
David A. Christie and Astrid M. van Woudenberg .................................................. 97

XVI
Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia) Survival in Prairie Canada
Kort M. Clayton and Josef K. Schmutz ................................................................. 107

Dispersal Behavior and Survival of Juvenile Tawny Owls (Strix aluco) During the
Low Point in a Vole Cycle
C.F. Coles and S.J. Petty ....................................................................................... 111

Seasonal Distribution of the Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) in Southwestern Alberta
Douglas M. Collister ............................................................................................. 119

Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia) Monitoring and Management Activities in
Manitoba, 1987-1996
Ken D. De Smet .................................................................................................. 123

Northern Saw-whet Owls (Aegolius acadicus) Captured at Cape May Point, NJ,
1980-1994: Comparison of Two Capture Techniques
Katharine E. Duffy and Patrick E. Matheny ......................................................... 131

Habitat Associated with Barred Owl (Strix varia) Locations in Southeastern
Manitoba: A Review of a Habitat Model
James R. Duncan and Amy E. Kearns ................................................................. 138

You Are What You Eat: Stable Isotope Ecology of Owl Diets in Alberta, Canada
Jason M. Duxbury and Geoffrey L. Holroyd ......................................................... 148

Sex-biased Dispersal of Young Western Screech-owls (Otus kennicottii) in
Southwestern Idaho
Ethan Ellsworth and James R. Belthoff ............................................................... 155

Comparative Study of General Public Owl Knowledge in Costa Rica, Central
America and Malawi, Africa
Paula L. Enriquez and Heimo Mikkola ................................................................ 160

Autumn Populations and Movements of Migrant Northern Saw-whet Owls
(Aegolius acadicus) at Little Suamico, Wisconsin
Tom C. Erdman, Tom O. Meyer, Jerry H. Smith, and Debra M. Erdman .......... 167

The Influence of Broadcast Tape-recorded Calls on Captures of Fall Migrant
Northern Saw-whet Owls (Aegolius acadicus) and Long-eared Owls (Asio otus)
David L. Evans .................................................................................................... 173

Monitoring Boreal Forest Owls in Ontario Using Tape Playback Surveys
with Volunteers
Charles M. Francis and Michael S. W. Bradstreet .............................................. 175

Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) Productivity and Home Range Characteristics
in a Shortgrass Prairie
Rosemary A. Frank and R. Scott Lutz ............................................................... 185

Size, Dimorphism, and Related Characteristics of Cicaboa Owls From Guatemala
Richard P. Gerhardt and Dawn McAnnis Gerhardt ............................................ 190
### 2nd Owl Symposium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Importance of Prairie Wetlands and Avian Prey to Breeding Great Horned Owls (<em>Bubo virginianus</em>) in Northwestern North Dakota</td>
<td>Robert K. Murphy</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality Causes in British Barn Owls (<em>Tyto alba</em>), Based on 1,101 Carcasses Examined During 1963-1996</td>
<td>I. Newton, I. Wyllie, and L. Dale</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial and Nesting Behavior in Southern Boobook (<em>Ninox novaeseelandiae</em>)</td>
<td>Jerry Olsen and Susan Trost</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Patterns Around Northern Spotted Owl (<em>Strix occidentalis caurina</em>) Nest Sites in Oregon’s Central Coast Ranges</td>
<td>J.P. Perkins, J.A. Thrailkill, W.J. Ripple, and K.T. Hershey</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clutch Size Variation in Tawny Owls (<em>Strix aluco</em>) from Adjacent Valley Systems: Can This be Used as a Surrogate to Investigate Temporal and Spatial Variations in Vole Density?</td>
<td>Steve J. Petty and Billy L. Fawkes</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nest Sites and Reproductive Success of Barred Owls (<em>Strix varia</em>) in Michigan</td>
<td>Sergej Postupalsky, Joseph M. Papp, and Lewis Scheller</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness of Broadcast Surveys in Determining Habitat Use of Ferruginous Pygmy-owls (<em>Glaucidium brasilianum</em>) in Southern Texas</td>
<td>Glenn A. Proudfoot, Jody L. Mays, Sam L. Beason, and Ralph Bingham</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of Food Habits of the Northern Saw-whet Owl (<em>Aegolius acadicus</em>) and the Western Screech-owl (<em>Otus kennicottii</em>) in Southwestern Idaho</td>
<td>Charlotte (Charley) Rains</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-territorial Floaters in Great Horned Owls (<em>Bubo virginianus</em>)</td>
<td>Christoph Rohner</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Finnish Owls 1982–1996: Methods and Results</td>
<td>Pertti L. Saurola</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Dynamics of Lanyu Scops Owls (<em>Otus elegans botelensis</em>)</td>
<td>L.L. Severinghaus</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls as Biomonitors of Environmental Contamination</td>
<td>Steven R. Sheffield</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Status, Distribution, and Conservation of the Burrowing Owl (<em>Speotyto cunicularia</em>) in Midwestern and Western North America</td>
<td>Steven R. Sheffield</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Eastern Screech-owl (<em>Otus asio</em>) Roosting Behavior: Possible Effects from Nesting Stage and Nest Type</td>
<td>Thomas McK. Sproat</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ann B. Swengel and Scott R. Swengel ................................................................. 411

Owl Broadcast Surveys in the Foothills Model Forest, Alberta, Canada  
D. Lisa Takats and Geoffrey L. Holroyd ............................................................ 421

An Update of Demographic Estimates for Northern Spotted Owls (Strix occidentalis caurina) from Oregon’s Central Coast Ranges  
James A. Thrailkill, Robert G. Anthony, and E. Charles Meslow ........................... 432

Breeding Population of the Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) in Belarus: Summary of Recent Knowledge  
Alexey K. Tishechkin, Wassilij W. Gritschik, Valery N. Vorobiov, and Gennady A. Mindlin ........ 449

Comparative Food Niche Analysis of Strix Owls in Belarus  
Alexey K. Tishechkin .......................................................................................... 456

Strategies for Protecting Western Burrowing Owls (Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea) from Human Activities  
Lynne A. Trulio ................................................................................................... 461

Flammulated Owl (Otus flammeolus) Population and Habitat Inventory at its Northern Range Limit in the Southern Interior of British Columbia  
Astrid M. van Woudenberg and David A. Christie .................................................. 466

Habitat Fragmentation and Burrowing Owls (Speotyto cunicularia) in Saskatchewan  
Robert G. Warnock and Paul C. James .................................................................. 477

The Effects of Predator Exclusion and Food Supplementation on Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia) Population Change in Saskatchewan  
Troy I. Wellicome, Geoffrey L. Holroyd, Karyn Scalise, and Earl R. Wiltse ................ 487

Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) Breeding Habitat Use Within Altered Forest Landscapes  
Michael B. Whitfield and Maureen Gaffney ......................................................... 498

Conservation Implications of a Multi-scale Study of Flammulated Owl (Otus flammeolus) Habitat Use in the Northern Rocky Mountains, USA  
Vita Wright, Sallie J. Hejl, and Richard L. Hutto .................................................. 506

POSTER PAPERS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Winter Owl Surveying in Central Alberta  
Barbara H. Beck and James A. Beck, Jr. ................................................................ 518

Increase in Distribution Records of Owl Species in Manitoba Based on a Volunteer Nocturnal Survey Using Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) and Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) Playback  
James R. Duncan and Patricia A. Duncan ............................................................. 519
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intra- and Interspecific Calling in a Tropical Owl Community</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula L. Enríquez and J. Luis Rangel Salazar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing Mist Net Captures of Migrant Northern Saw-whet Owls (Aegolius acadicus) with an Audiolure</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas C. Erdman and David F. Brinker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Method for Locating Barred Owl (Strix varia) Nests in the Southern Boreal Forest of Saskatchewan</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanna D. Frith, Kurt M. Mazur, and Paul C. James</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls in the Moscow Region: the Results of a 10-year Study</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.S. Grenchenko, S.V.Volkov, and T.V. Sviritova</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimation of Food Consumption from Pellets Cast by Captive Ural Owls (Strix uralensis)</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aki Higuchi and Manabu T. Abe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing Loading in 15 Species of North American Owls</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David H. Johnson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Investigation of Vocal Variation in the Mexican Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis lucida): Would Vocal Analysis of the Four-note Location Call be a Useful Field Tool for Individual Identification?</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy A. Kuntz and Peter B. Stacey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Expansion of Northern Hawk Owls (Surnia ulula) and Boreal Owls (Aegolius funereus) in Nova Scotia</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy F. Lauff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca) Reproduction in Relation to Lemming Population Cycles on Wrangel Island</td>
<td>572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irina E. Menyushina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Distribution of Owlaholics</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heimo Mikkola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Importance of Old Growth Refugia in the Yukon Boreal Forest to Cavity-nesting Owls</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.H. Mossop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age Composition of Great Gray Owls (Strix nebulosa), Winter 1995/1996</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Nero and Herbert W.R. Copland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations of Wintering Snowy Owls (Nyctea scandiaca) at Logan Airport, East Boston, Massachusetts from 1981-1997</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Tape Playback of the Staccato Song to Document Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) Reproduction</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale W. Stahlecker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Features and Characteristics of Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa) Nests in Fragmented Landscapes of Central Alberta</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.P. Stepnisky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORKSHOPS

Report on the Nocturnal Raptor Monitoring Workshop
Geoffrey L. Holroyd and Lisa Takats ........................................................................................................610

Report on the Western Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia) Conservation Workshop
Geoffrey L. Holroyd and Troy I. Wellicome ...............................................................................................613

The Role and Management Implications of Modeling Owl Populations and the Habitats They Occupy
Amy E. Kearns ...........................................................................................................................................617

“Mission Possible: Owls in Education”
Marcia J. Wilson ........................................................................................................................................621

INDEX ......................................................................................................................................................634