

## How can you help?

- **Conserve** native prairie!
- **Convert cultivated land** to native or perennial cover.
- **Avoid** using **pesticides** in or adjacent to native prairie.
- Choose **less harmful chemicals** and consider a no-spray zone around nests.
- **Drive carefully** near known nesting sites.
- **Avoid cultivating** close to known nests.
- **Be aware of nesting times** and when to avoid working near an active nest.
- **Learn** about prairie owls and share your knowledge with others.
- **Participate** in a stewardship program like Nature Saskatchewan's **Operation Burrowing Owl** or **Stewards of Saskatchewan banner program!**

## What do I do if I spot a rare prairie owl?

Call Nature Saskatchewan's HOOT line:

**1-800-667-HOOT(4668)**

By reporting a sighting, you are helping to monitor the owls' populations.

## Thank You to our Supporters!

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Government of Saskatchewan—Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- The Mosaic Company
- R. Howard Webster Foundation
- Earth Rangers
- Enbridge
- The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada
- SaskTel
- Nature Saskatchewan member donations

*A special thank you to landowners and land managers conserving wildlife and species at risk habitat!*

To learn more contact:

### Nature Saskatchewan

206-1860 Lorne Street

Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 2L7

Toll Free (in SK & AB Only): 1-800-667-4668

Or 306-780-9273 Fax: 306-780-9263

Email: [info@naturesask.ca](mailto:info@naturesask.ca)

Website: [www.naturesask.ca](http://www.naturesask.ca)



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SASKATCHEWAN

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# Owls of the Prairies



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Call the Hoot Line:  
**1-800-667-HOOT (4668)**

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**Great Horned Owl**  
*Bubo virginianus*

- **Burrowing Owls** are small owls (approximately 9 inches tall) with light and dark brown mottled plumage and white spots.
- They have long featherless legs and a round head, with large yellow eyes, and white 'eyebrows'.
- They **nest underground** in abandoned burrows.
- Male Burrowing Owls can often be seen standing on mounds of dirt next to their burrows, or on nearby fence posts while the female incubates the eggs.
- They are **rare to see** but may be seen from May to September.
- The Burrowing Owl is federally listed as **Endangered**.



**Short-eared Owl**  
*Asio flammeus*



**Burrowing Owl**  
*Athene cunicularia*

- **Great Horned Owls** are large (approximately 22 inches tall), nocturnal owls with two prominent feathered tufts or 'horns' on its head.
- They are mottled gray-brown with a reddish brown face and white throat.
- They **nest in trees or caves**.
- The Great Horned Owl is most conspicuous at dusk and may be seen perched on a tree branch or powerpoles.
- They are **common to see** year round in deciduous or evergreen trees as well as cities.
- The Great Horned Owl is not federally listed as a species at risk.

- **Short-eared Owls** are medium sized owls, approximately 15 inches tall.
- They have boldly streaked breasts and light facial disks with dark black patches around their eyes, and a round head.
- They have small 'ear' tufts that are not always visible and black 'wrist' marks on the underside of their wings.
- They **nest on the ground** and fly close to the ground in an irregular, floppy manner.
- They are **uncommon to see** but may be seen year-round.
- The Short-eared Owl is federally listed as **Special Concern**.