



Owls - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Year-round Species in Florida:		barn, barred, burrowing, eastern-screech, great horned
Appearance:	Size:	smallest is eastern screech-owl (7-10" tall)
		largest is great horned owl (18-25" tall)
	Shape:	large heads, either smooth or with "ears"
		flattened faces forming facial disks
		large, forward-facing eyes; hooked bills
		feathered feet (usually)
	Color:	mostly gray-brown mottled with either bars or stripes
Range:		statewide, except burrowing owl (central and south Florida)
Habitat:		variety of forested and open areas; burrowing owls mostly found in open grasslands, pastures, farms and airstrips
Diet:		mostly small rodents, birds, reptiles, and large insects

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2.

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Reproduction:	sexes appear similar, female usually larger
	nest can be in cavities, trees, buildings, and burrows
	eggs are white and round, 2-8 per clutch, nesting occurs from December to June, varied by species.
Behavior:	chiefly nocturnal birds of prey, flight is noiseless (mothlike) due to very soft plumage
Problems:	sometimes nest in buildings and dwellings
	dig burrows in pastures, playgrounds, and lawns
	may depredate poultry, pets, and other domestic animals
Solutions:	exclusion and/or removal from dwellings; place livestock and poultry in covered enclosures at night; eliminate nearby perch sites
Legal Aspects:	protected by federal laws; permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA-APHIS necessary to trap/remove the offending individual; nests may be moved or destroyed only with permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; no repellents or toxicants registered for use
Fact Sheet Available:	no