

Heritage Rank Status Factors

Elcode ABNSB12040
Gname STRIX NEBULOSA
Gcomname GREAT GRAY OWL

Number of Occurrences

E = >300

Comments Holarctic range.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

F = Very many (>125) occurrences with good viability

Comments Southern populations in the western U.S. are relatively stable. Northern populations and those at the southern edge of the range in eastern Canada are less stable (Bull and Duncan 1993).

Population Size

F = 10,000-100,000 individuals

G = 100,000-1,000,000 individuals

Comments Guesstimated number of breeding pairs in Canada in the early 1990s was 10,000-25,000 (Kirk et al. 1995). See Johnsgard (1988) for listing of recent status studies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, California, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon.

Range Extent

H = > 2,500,000 km² (greater than 1,000,000 square miles)

Comments Breeds from Central Alaska to northern Ontario, south locally in the mountains to California (vicinity of Yosemite), Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, central Saskatchewan, northern Minnesota, and south-central Ontario. Winters generally throughout its breeding range, wandering south irregularly to the northern U.S. Also found in the Old World. Usually uncommon, but sometimes may be locally abundant.

Area of Occupancy

H = >20,000 km² (greater than 5,000,000 acres)

LH = >200,000 km (greater than 125,000 miles)

Comments Unevenly distributed and variable throughout its range. Average home range size for adults in northeastern Oregon is 67.3 km² (Bull and Duncan 1993).

Long-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

E = Relatively Stable ($\pm 25\%$ change)

Comments No evident population decline in the vast majority of the range; apparently stable, but actual population data is lacking for many areas (Kirk et al. 1995).

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Greasons

Large circumboreal range; no decline is evident in the vast majority of the range, but little data is available for most areas.

BCD Sources

California Department of Fish and Game. 1990. 1989 annual report on the status of California's state listed threatened and endangered plants and animals. 188 pp.

Franklin, A. B. 1988. Breeding biology of the great gray owl in southeastern Idaho and northwestern Wyoming. *Condor* 90:689-696.

Johnsgard, P. 1988. North American owls: biology and natural history. Smithsonian Inst. Press. 336 pp.

Kirk, D.A., D. Hussell, and E. Dunn. 1994/95. Raptor population status and trends in Canada. *Bird Trends* (Canadian Wildlife Service) 4:2-9.

New Sources

Bull, E. L., and J. R. Duncan. 1993. Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*). In *The birds of North America*, No. 41 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). Acad. of Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, and Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.