

# Barred Owl

(*Strix varia*)



Barred Owl

## Instant ID

- A brown and tan owl with large, round face
- Vertical barring on its chest gives this owl its name
- Only dark-eyed owl with a yellow beak found in Florida State Parks
- Does not have ear tufts like the similarly sized great horned owl

## Native Niches

- Found in moist environments throughout the state
- Prefers oak forests, cypress forests, hardwood hammocks and swamps
- Most often nests in cavities (holes in trees)

## Favorite Foods

- Any small animal in environment, mainly rodents
- Also eats birds, fish and amphibians



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## Critter Characteristics

- Facial disk (stiff ring of feathers around face) aids in hearing
- Call sounds like “who cooks for you, who cooks for you all”
- Black and white vision lets owls see better at night
- Nocturnal (hunts at night)
- Has extra sharp talons (claws) for grabbing prey in a slippery environment
- Spits up a pellet (clump of fur, bones, scales, feathers, etc.) after digesting skin, meat and organs

## Population Protection

- Adapts readily to suburban and neighborhood environments
- Barred owls will use nesting boxes if provided
- Stay alert while driving, because owls often hunt around roads

