





# Species Modeling Report

## **Barn Owl**

Tyto alba

Taxa: Avian Order: Strigiformes

Family: Tytonidae

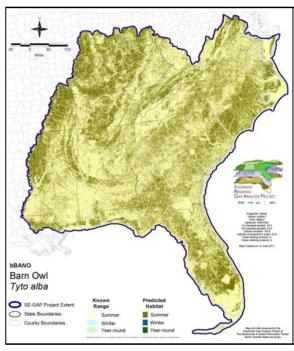
SE-GAP Spp Code: **bBANO** ITIS Species Code: 177851

NatureServe Element Code: ABNSA01010

### **KNOWN RANGE:**

# Barn Owl Tyto alba

### PREDICTED HABITAT:



Range Map Link: http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE Range bBANO.pdf

Predicted Habitat Map Link: http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE\_Dist\_bBANO.pdf GAP Online Tool Link: http://www.gapserve.ncsu.edu/segap/segap/index2.php?species=bBANO

http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/region/vert/bBANO\_se00.zip

### **PROTECTION STATUS:**

Reported on March 14, 2011

Federal Status: ---

Data Download:

State Status: AR (W), CT (E), IA (E), ID (P), IL (LE), IN (SE), KY (S), MA (SC), ME (SC), MI (E), NC (SR), NJ (SC/SC), NV (YES), NY (PB), OH (T), OK (Category II), RI (State Endangered), TN (D), UT (None), VA (SC), WI (END), BC (3 (2005)), ON (END), QC (Candidate)

NS Global Rank: G5

NS State Rank: AL (S3), AR (S2B,S3N), AZ (S5), CA (SNR), CO (S4B), CT (S2), DC (S1), DE (S3), FL (SNR), GA (S3S4), IA (S1B), ID (S3?), IL (S1S2), IN (S2), KS (S3), KY (S3), LA (S5), MA (S2B,S2N), MD (S3), ME (SNA), MI (S1), MN (SNA), MN (SNA), MO (S3), MS (S3), MT (S1), NC (S3B,S3N), ND (SNA), NE (S3), NH (SNA), NJ (S3B,S3N), NM (S4B,S4N), NV (S4), NY (S1S2), OH (S2), OK (S3), OR (S4?), PA (S3B,S3N), RI (S1B,S1N), SC (S4), SD (S2B), SD (S2B), TN (S3), TX (S5B), UT (S3), VA (S3B,S3N), VT (S1B,S1N), WA (S4), WI (S1B,S1N), WV (S2B,S2N), WY (S2), AB (SNA), BC (S3), MB (SNA), NB (SNA), NF (SNA), NS (SNA), ON (S1), PE (SNA), QC (S1B), SK (SNA)

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### SUMMARY OF PREDICTED HABITAT BY MANAGMENT AND GAP PROTECTION STATUS:

	US FWS		US Forest Service		Tenn. Valley Author.		US DOD/ACOE	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Status 1	56,454.0	< 1	1,761.9	< 1	0.0	0	0.0	C
Status 2	130,439.0	< 1	19,006.8	< 1	0.0	0	499.5	< 1
Status 3	814.3	< 1	206,670.6	< 1	24,032.7	< 1	212,644.8	< 1
Status 4	16.7	< 1	< 0.1	< 1	0.0	0	73.7	< 1
Total	187,724.0	< 1	227,439.5	< 1	24,032.7	< 1	213,218.0	< 1
	US Dept. of Energy		US Nat. Park Service		NOAA		Other Federal Lands	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Status 1	0.0	0	14,948.9	< 1	0.0	0	8,190.5	< 1
Status 2	0.0	0	8,841.2	< 1	5,674.3	< 1	39.9	< 1
Status 3	7,813.6	< 1	20,144.1	< 1	0.0	0	5,987.9	< 1
Status 4	0.0	0	1.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	0
Total	7,813.6	< 1	43,935.2	< 1	5,674.3	< 1	14,218.2	< 1
İ	Native Am. Reserv.		State Park/Hist. Park		State WMA/Gameland		State Forest	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Status 1	0.0	0	112.8	< 1	17.2	< 1	0.0	C
Status 2	0.0	0	625.4	< 1	255,748.1	< 1	18.4	< 1
Status 3	2,311.2	< 1	339,865.8	< 1	64,701.6	< 1	125,149.0	< 1
Status 4	0.0	0	0.0	0	11,468.8	< 1	0.5	< 1
Total	2,311.2	< 1	340,604.0	< 1	331,935.8	< 1	125,167.9	< 1
ĺ	State Coastal Reserve		ST Nat.Area/Preserve		Other State Lands		Private Cons. Easemt	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
Status 1	0.0	0	2,020.6	< 1	0.0	0	0.0	C
Status 2	8,355.8	< 1	24,735.8	< 1	1.5	< 1	2,156.9	< 1
Status 3	0.0	0	11,404.0	< 1	9,398.5	< 1	95,660.8	< 1
Status 4	0.0	0	0.0	0	2,685.2	< 1	< 0.1	< 1
Total	8,355.8	< 1	38,160.4	< 1	12,085.3	< 1	97,817.8	< 1
ĺ	Private Land - I	No Res.		Water			Overa	ıll Total
	ha	%	ha	%			ha	%
Status 1	0.0	0	0.0	0			83,505.9	< 1
Status 2	0.0	0	0.0	0			456,142.5	1
Status 3	26.6	< 1	0.0	0			1,126,625.5	3
Status 4	39,817,752.6	95	27,373.9	< 1			39,870,824.8	96
Total	39,817,779.1	95	27,373.9	< 1			41,537,098.6	100

GAP Status 1: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a natural state within which disturbance events (of natural type, frequency, and intensity) are allowed to proceed without interference or are mimicked through management.

GAP Status 2: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a primarily natural state, but which may receive use or management practices that degrade the quality of existing natural communities.

GAP Status 3: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area, but subject to extractive uses of either a broad, low-intensity type or localized intense type. It also confers protection to federally listed endangered and threatened species throughout the area.

GAP Status 4: Lack of irrevocable easement or mandate to prevent conversion of natural habitat types to anthropogenic habitat types. Allows for intensive use throughout the tract. Also includes those tracts for which the existence of such restrictions or sufficient information to establish a higher status is unknown.

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### PREDICTED HABITAT MODEL(S):

### **Summer Model:**

Habitat Description:

Barn owls forage in open and partly open areas with low ground cover such as fields, cemeteries, hedgerows, and pastures, open forest, marshy areas (Adams et al. 1986, Hamel 1992, Nicholson 1997). They use young forest plantations, where they hunt for small mammals (Johnsgard 1988). They are often found in or near towns, where they may nest in man-made structures (AOU 1983, Ehrlich et al. 1988). Dense grass fields are the chief foraging habitat, including salt marsh, wet meadows, lightly grazed pastures, grass hayfields, and recently abandoned agricultural fields (Colvin 1980, 1984, 1985; Rosenburg 1986; Gubanyi 1989). Radiotelemetry studies indicate that these habitats are actively selected (Colvin 1984, Rosenburg 1986, Gubanyi 1989). Furthermore, the quantity and quality of dense grass habitats are significantly correlated with nest activity (Colvin and Hegdal 1988). Other habitats occasionally used include alfalfa/grass (Colvin 1984), small grain (Ault 1971, Rosenburg 1986), fencelines, and roadsides (Ault 1971, Byrd 1982). In an intensively farmed area in eastern Virginia where grass availability was very low, barn owls foraged in small grain, a five-year-old clearcut, barnyards, and a pine plantation used as a blackbird roost (Rosenburg 1986). Cultivated habitats in general are of little importance to the barn owl because of low prey populations and/or dense protective cover (Colvin 1984, Rosenburg 1986). Foraging habitat limited by nest site availability such as hollow trees, riverbanks, nestboxes, and human structures (Marti 1992). Nest site habitat features are fine scale and we can not model them directly.

It appears that barn owls will use any preexisting large natural or man-made cavity for nesting. Barn Owls require fairly large cavities for nesting (Nicholson 1997), although they appear to be adaptable in the types of nest sites they find acceptable (Marti 1988). They have been reported to nest in a variety of cavities and/or protected sites such as: abandoned buildings, belfries (Hamel 1992), tree cavities, cliff crevices, nest boxes (Ehrlich et al.), under-ground burrows, sides of old wells, and abandoned mining shafts (Bent 1938). They may also be found nesting in the steep walls of ravines (Konig 1999).

Although cut bank burrows and cliff recesses are frequently used in the western U.S. (Otteni et al. 1972, Martin 1973, Rudolph 1978, Millsap and Millsap 1987, Gubanyi 1989), only a few cases of the use of such sites have been reported in the Northeast. R. Ferren (pers. comm.) described barn owl nest holes in the steep bluffs on the north and south ends of Block Island, Rhode Island. Recesses in a clay embankment along the Patuxent River in Maryland supported a breeding pair during the late 1980s (S. Smith, pers. comm.). Exposed barrels in a cut bank along the Rappahannock River of eastern Virginia supported approximately 15 nesting pairs in the late 1970s (S. Doggett, pers. comm.).

Quoted directly from existing state habitat notes - K. Cook, 17Feb05

Contiguous Patch Minimum Size (hectares): 100

Functional Group	Map Unit Name  Low Intensity Developed				
Anthropogenic					
Anthropogenic	Pasture/Hay				
Anthropogenic	Row Crop				
Anthropogenic	Successional Grassland/Herbaceous				
Anthropogenic	Successional Grassland/Herbaceous (Other)				
Anthropogenic	Successional Grassland/Herbaceous (Utility Swath)				
Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland	Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Interdunal Wetland				
Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland	Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Dune and Maritime Grassland				
Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland	Atlantic Coastal Plain Southern Dune and Maritime Grassland				
Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland	East Gulf Coastal Plain Dune and Coastal Grassland				
Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland	Southwest Florida Dune and Coastal Grassland				
Forest/Woodland	Central Appalachian Pine-Oak Rocky Woodland				
Forest/Woodland	East Gulf Coastal Plain Black Belt Calcareous Prairie and Woodland - Woodland Modifier				
Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland	Atlantic Coastal Plain Central Fresh-Oligohaline Tidal Marsh				
Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland	Atlantic Coastal Plain Embayed Region Tidal Freshwater Marsh				
Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland	Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Fresh and Oligohaline Tidal Marsh				
Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland	Florida Big Bend Fresh-Oligohaline Tidal Marsh				
Prairie	Bluegrass Basin Savanna and Woodland				
Prairie	East Gulf Coastal Plain Black Belt Calcareous Prairie and Woodland				

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Prairie East Gulf Coastal Plain Black Belt Calcareous Prairie and Woodland - Herbaceous Modifier

Prairie East Gulf Coastal Plain Jackson Plain Prairie and Barrens
Prairie East Gulf Coastal Plain Jackson Prairie and Woodland

Prairie Eastern Highland Rim Prairie and Barrens

Prairie Eastern Highland Rim Prairie and Barrens - Dry Modifier

Prairie Florida Dry Prairie

Prairie Panhandle Florida Limestone Glade
Prairie Pennyroyal Karst Plain Prairie and Barrens
Prairie Southern Ridge and Valley Patch Prairie
Prairie Western Highland Rim Prairie and Barrens
Rock Outcrop Central Interior Acidic Cliff and Talus
Rock Outcrop East Gulf Coastal Plain Dry Chalk Bluff

Rock Outcrop North-Central Appalachian Acidic Cliff and Talus

Rock Outcrop North-Central Appalachian Circumneutral Cliff and Talus

Rock Outcrop Southern Appalachian Montane Cliff

Rock Outcrop Southern Interior Acid Cliff
Rock Outcrop Southern Interior Calcareous Cliff

Rock Outcrop Southern Piedmont Cliff

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Clay-Based Carolina Bay Forested Wetland
Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Clay-Based Carolina Bay Herbaceous Wetland

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Depression Pondshore
Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Large Natural Lakeshore

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Basin Swamp and Wet Hardwood Forest

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Pondshore

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Wet Longleaf Pine Savanna and Flatwoods

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Peatland Pocosin
Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Sandhill Seep

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Southern Wet Pine Savanna and Flatwoods

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Streamhead Seepage Swamp, Pocosin, and Baygall

Wetlands Central Florida Herbaceous Pondshore
Wetlands Central Florida Herbaceous Seep
Wetlands Central Florida Pine Flatwoods

Wetlands Central Interior Highlands and Appalachian Sinkhole and Depression Pond

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shrub Bog

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Jackson Plain Dry Flatwoods - Open Understory Modifier

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Jackson Plain Dry Flatwoods - Scrub/Shrub Understory Modifier

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Near-Coast Pine Flatwoods - Offsite Hardwood Modifier

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Near-Coast Pine Flatwoods - Open Understory Modifier

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Near-Coast Pine Flatwoods - Scrub/Shrub Understory Modifier

North-Central Appalachian Seepage Fen

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Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Depression Pondshore
Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Southern Depression Pondshore
Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Southern Loblolly-Hardwood Flatwoods

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Treeless Savanna and Wet Prairie
Wetlands Floridian Highlands Freshwater Marsh

Wetlands South Florida Freshwater Slough and Gator Hole

Wetlands South Florida Hardwood Hammock
Wetlands South Florida Wet Marl Prairie

Wetlands

Wetlands South-Central Interior/Upper Coastal Plain Wet Flatwoods

Wetlands Southern and Central Appalachian Bog and Fen
Wetlands Southern Appalachian Seepage Wetland
Wetlands Southern Coastal Plain Herbaceous Seepage Bog

Wetlands Southern Coastal Plain Hydric Hammock
Wetlands Southern Piedmont Seepage Wetland

Wetlands Southern Piedmont/Ridge and Valley Upland Depression Swamp

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Wetlands Mississippi River Riparian Forest

Wetlands Mississippi River Low Floodplain (Bottomland) Forest Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Dry and Dry-Mesic Oak Forest Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Mesic Hardwood and Mixed Forest

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Blackwater Stream Floodplain Forest - Forest Modifier Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Blackwater Stream Floodplain Forest - Herbaceous Modifier

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Brownwater Stream Floodplain Forest Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Blackwater River Floodplain Forest Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Brownwater River Floodplain Forest

Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Fall-line Sandhills Longleaf Pine Woodland - Open Understory Modifier Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Fall-line Sandhills Longleaf Pine Woodland - Scrub/Shrub Understory Modifier

Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Fall-Line Sandhills Longleaf Pine Woodland - Loblolly Modifier

Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Fall-line Sandhills Longleaf Pine Woodland - Offsite Hardwood Modifier

Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Central Maritime Forest Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Upland Longleaf Pine Woodland Forest/Woodland Florida Longleaf Pine Sandhill - Open Understory Modifier

Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Maritime Forest

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Nonriverine Swamp and Wet Hardwood Forest - Oak Dominated Modifier Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Nonriverine Swamp and Wet Hardwood Forest - Taxodium/Nyssa Modifier

Forest/Woodland Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Dry Hardwood Forest Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Southern Mesic Slope Forest Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Forest Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Bluff Forest

Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland - Hardwood Modifier Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland - Juniper Modifier

Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Dry Upland Hardwood Forest Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest - Forest Modifier Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest - Herbaceous Modifier

Wetlands Lower Mississippi River Bottomland Depressions - Forest Modifier Wetlands Lower Mississippi River Bottomland Depressions - Herbaceous Modifier

Wetlands Southern Coastal Plain Blackwater River Floodplain Forest

Forest/Woodland Southern Coastal Plain Oak Dome and Hammock Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Upland Longleaf Pine Woodland - Open Understory Modifier Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Upland Longleaf Pine Woodland - Scrub/Shrub Modifier East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Upland Longleaf Pine Woodland - Loblolly Modifier Forest/Woodland

Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Upland Longleaf Pine Woodland - Offsite Hardwood Modifier

Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Limestone Forest Forest/Woodland Fast Gulf Coastal Plain Maritime Forest

Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest - Mixed Modifier Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest - Hardwood Modifier Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest - Pine Modifier

Wetlands Lower Mississippi River Bottomland and Floodplain Forest

Forest/Woodland Mississippi Delta Maritime Forest

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Basin Peat Swamp Forest/Woodland Atlantic Coastal Plain Southern Maritime Forest Forest/Woodland East Gulf Coastal Plain Southern Loess Bluff Forest

Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest

Forest/Woodland Southern Coastal Plain Dry Upland Hardwood Forest

Wetlands South Florida Bayhead Swamp Forest/Woodland South Florida Pine Rockland

Forest/Woodland Southwest Florida Coastal Strand and Maritime Hammock Forest/Woodland Southeast Florida Coastal Strand and Maritime Hammock

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