

# Barred Owl Intrusion on Declining Spotted Owls

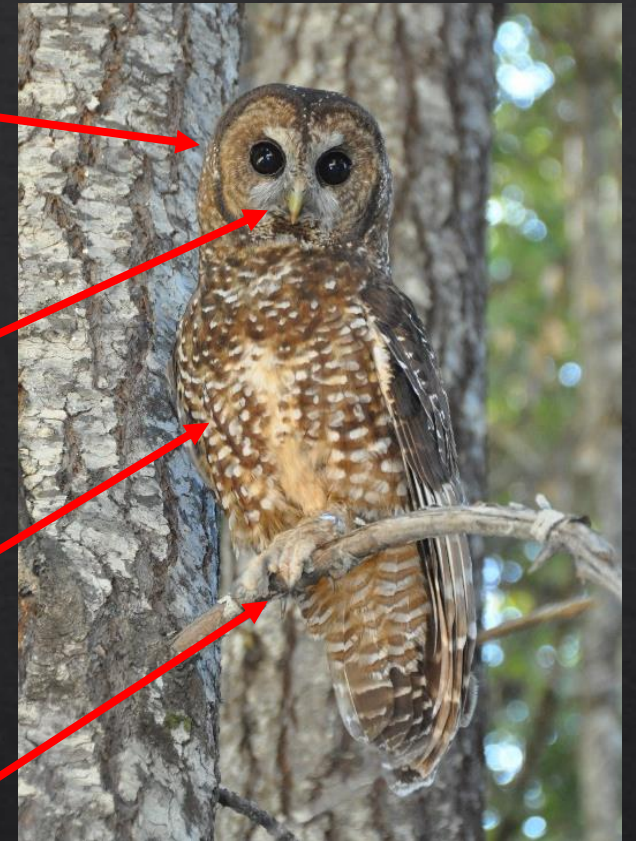
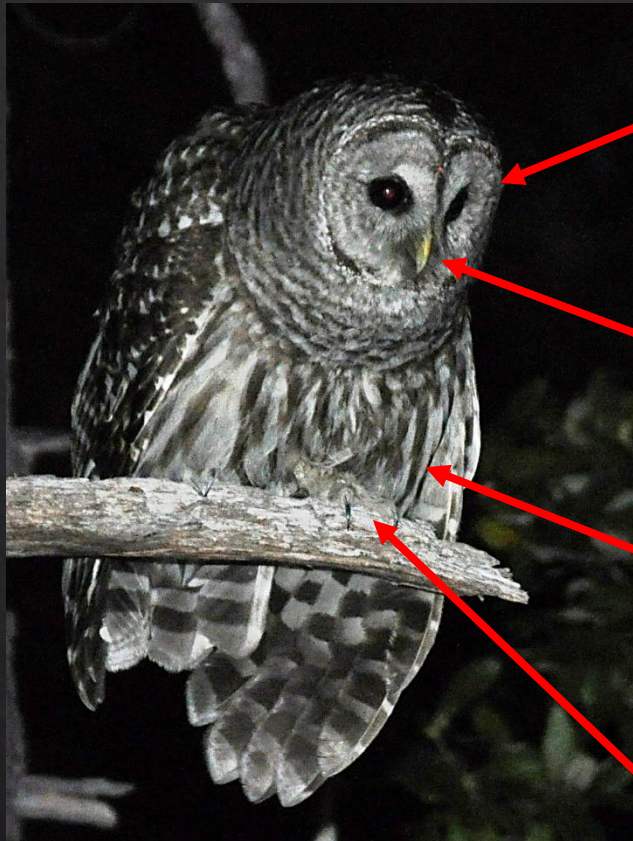
Dane Horowski, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife  
Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, November 1, 2022





Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)

Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*)



Facial Disk

Darker

Lighter

Bill

Greenish-gray

More Yellow

Barring

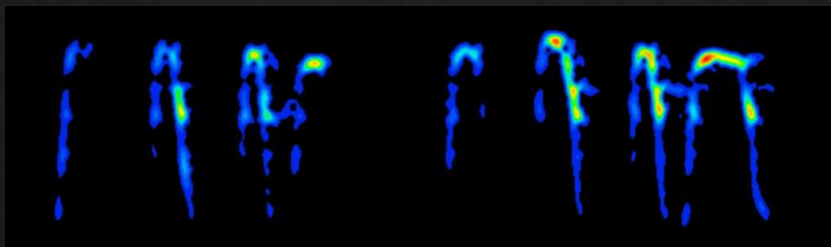
Horizontal

Vertical

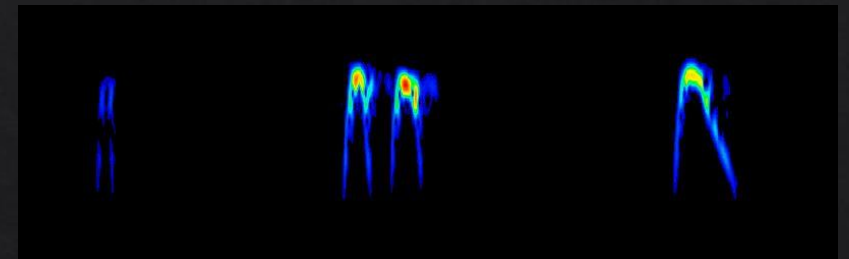
Talons

Pale Gray

Dark Gray



Vocalization



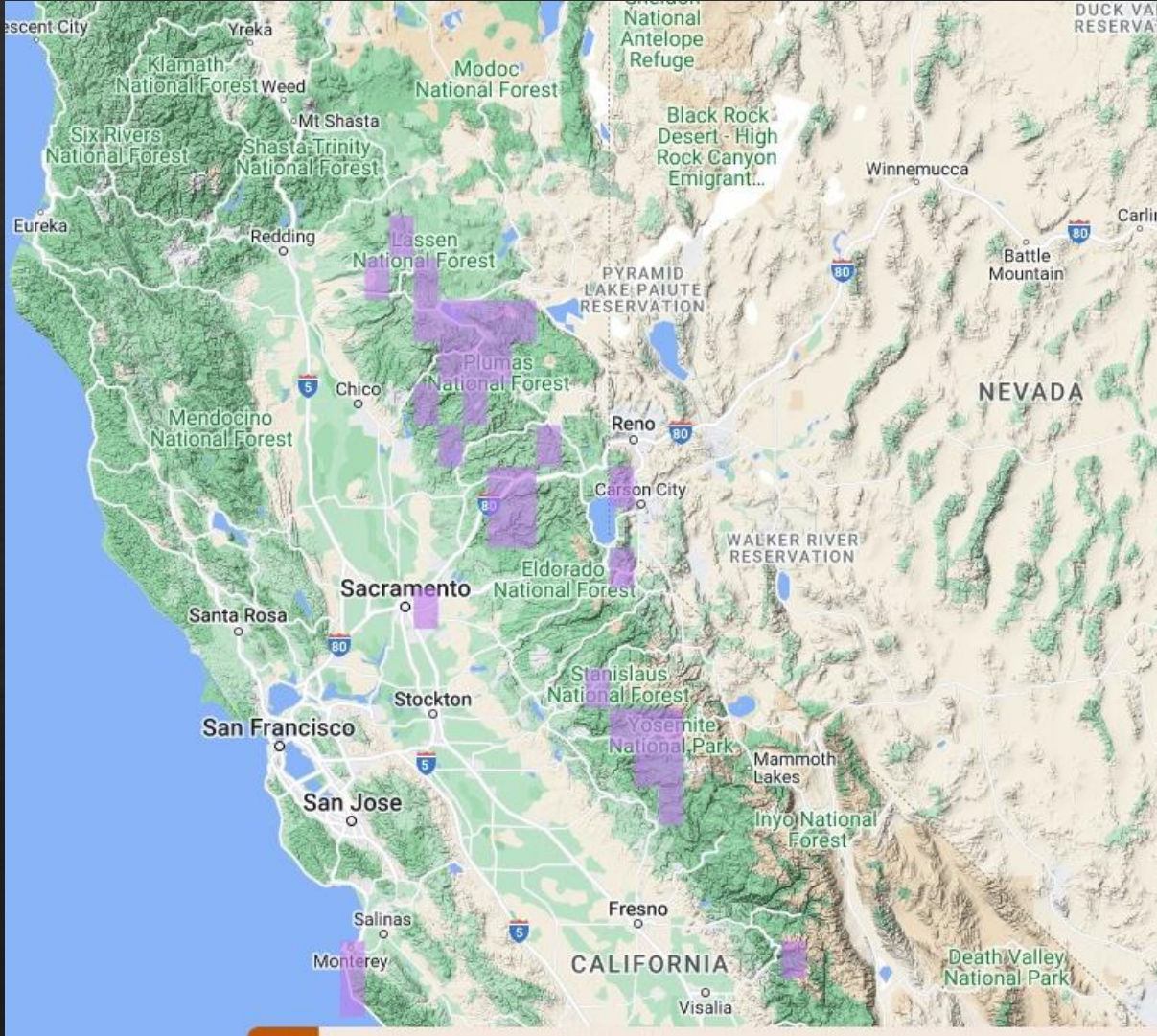


# Spotted Owl Range





# California Spotted Owl- NV



Ebird.org

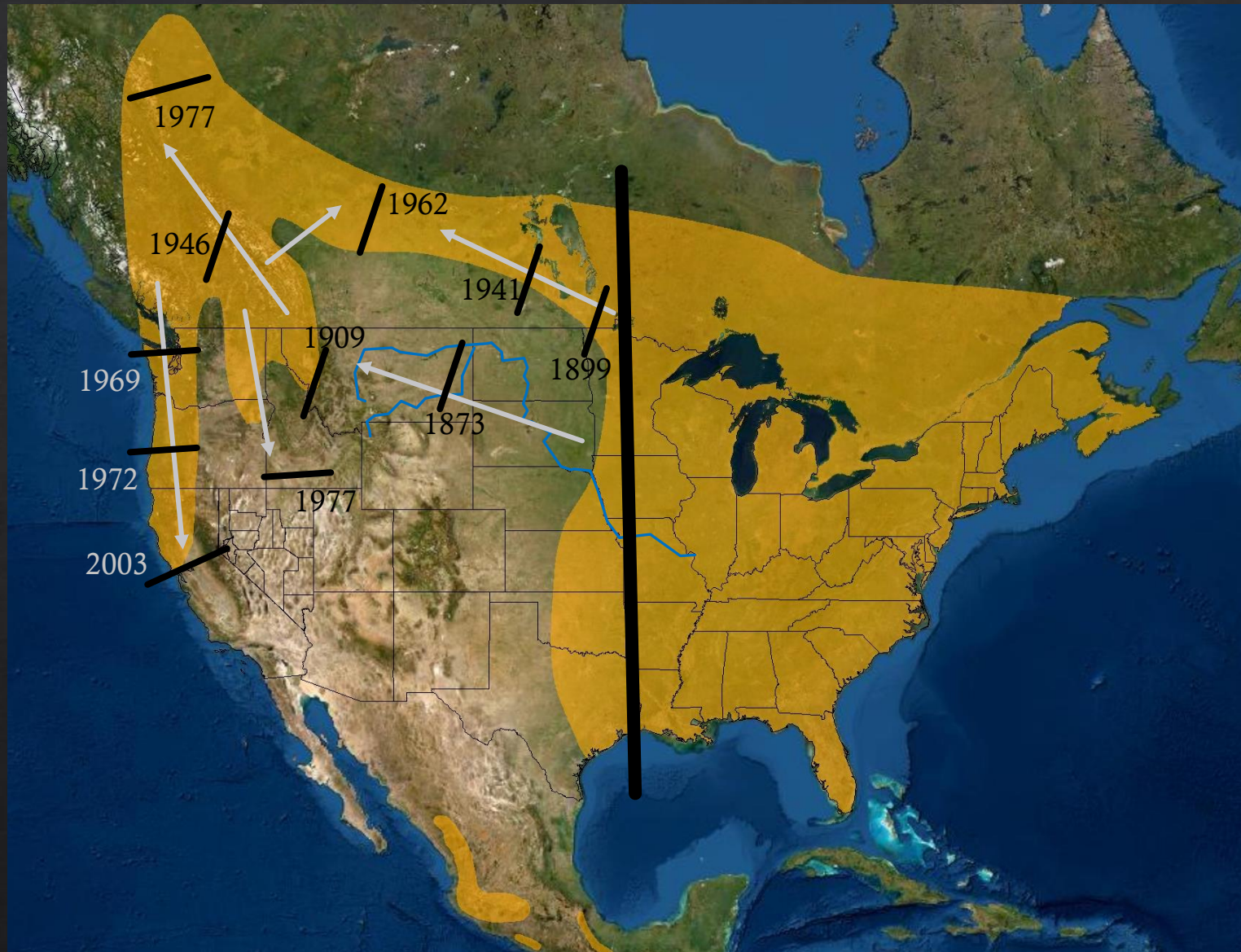
- One documented breeding pair in NV
- <10 individuals at any given time
- Not currently listed under Endangered Species Act
- CA Species of Special Concern
- NV priority species, in SWAP

# Barred Owl Expansion

- ◆ European settlers moved westward
  - ◆ Built towns
  - ◆ Planted trees
  - ◆ Suppressed and excluded wildfire
  - ◆ Removed natural grazers and beavers
- ◆ Dissolved the barrier of the Great Plains

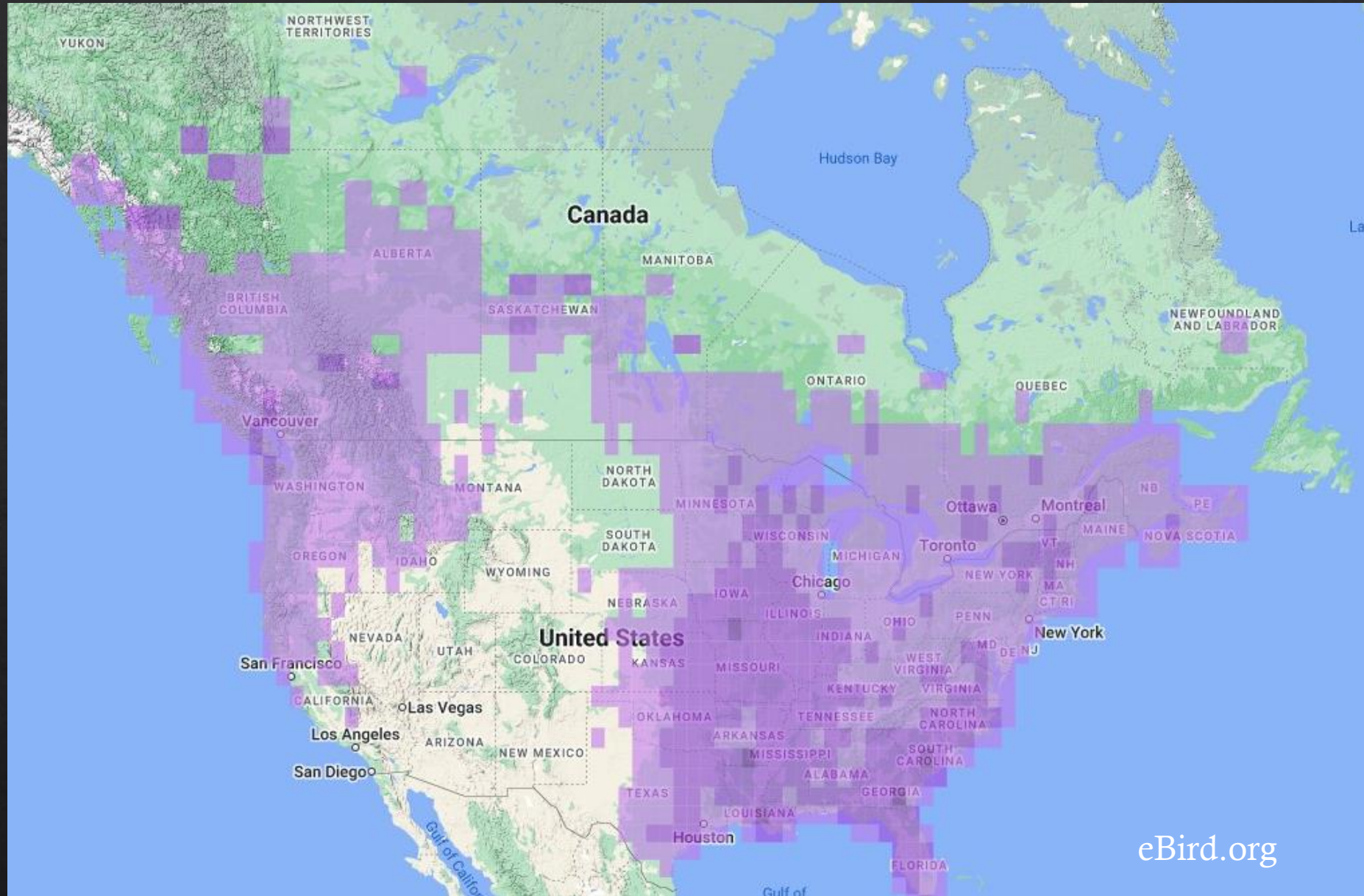


# Barred Owl Expansion



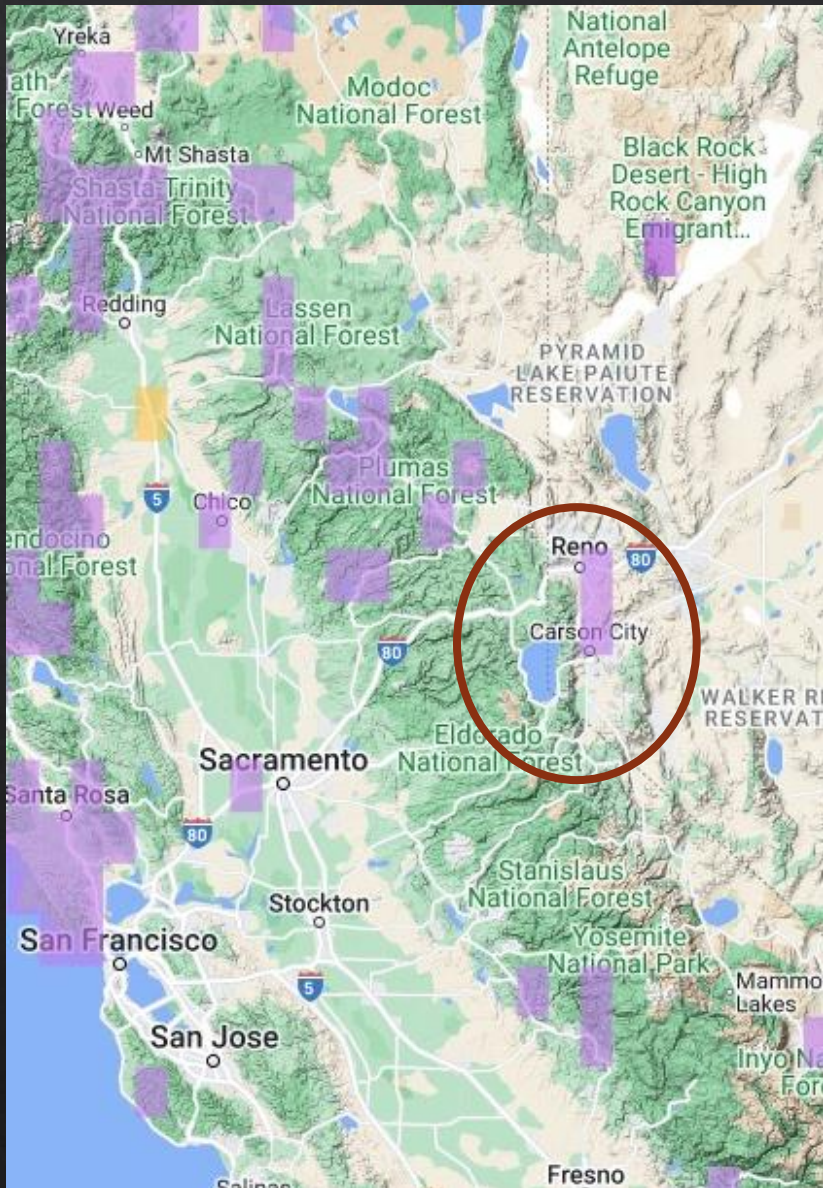


# Barred Owl Observations

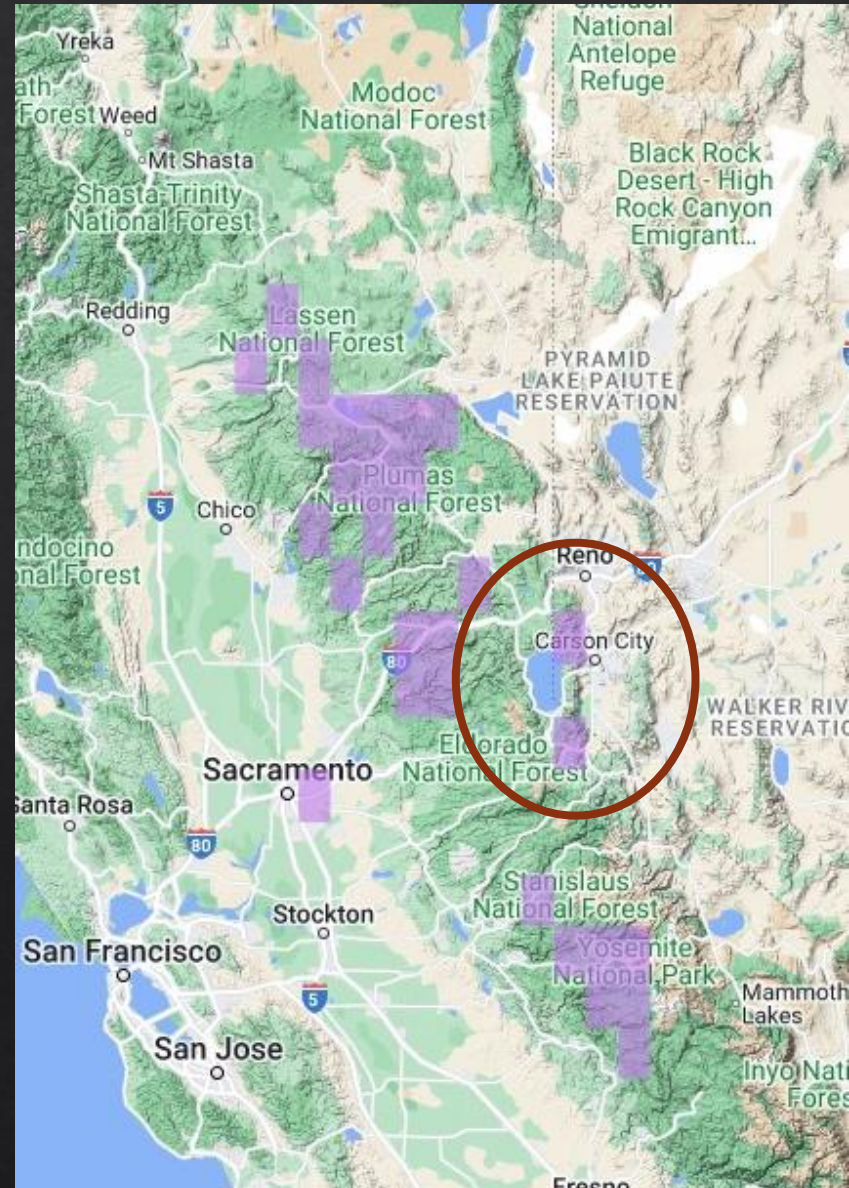




# Barred Owl



# Spotted Owl





# Owl Diets

## Barred Owl



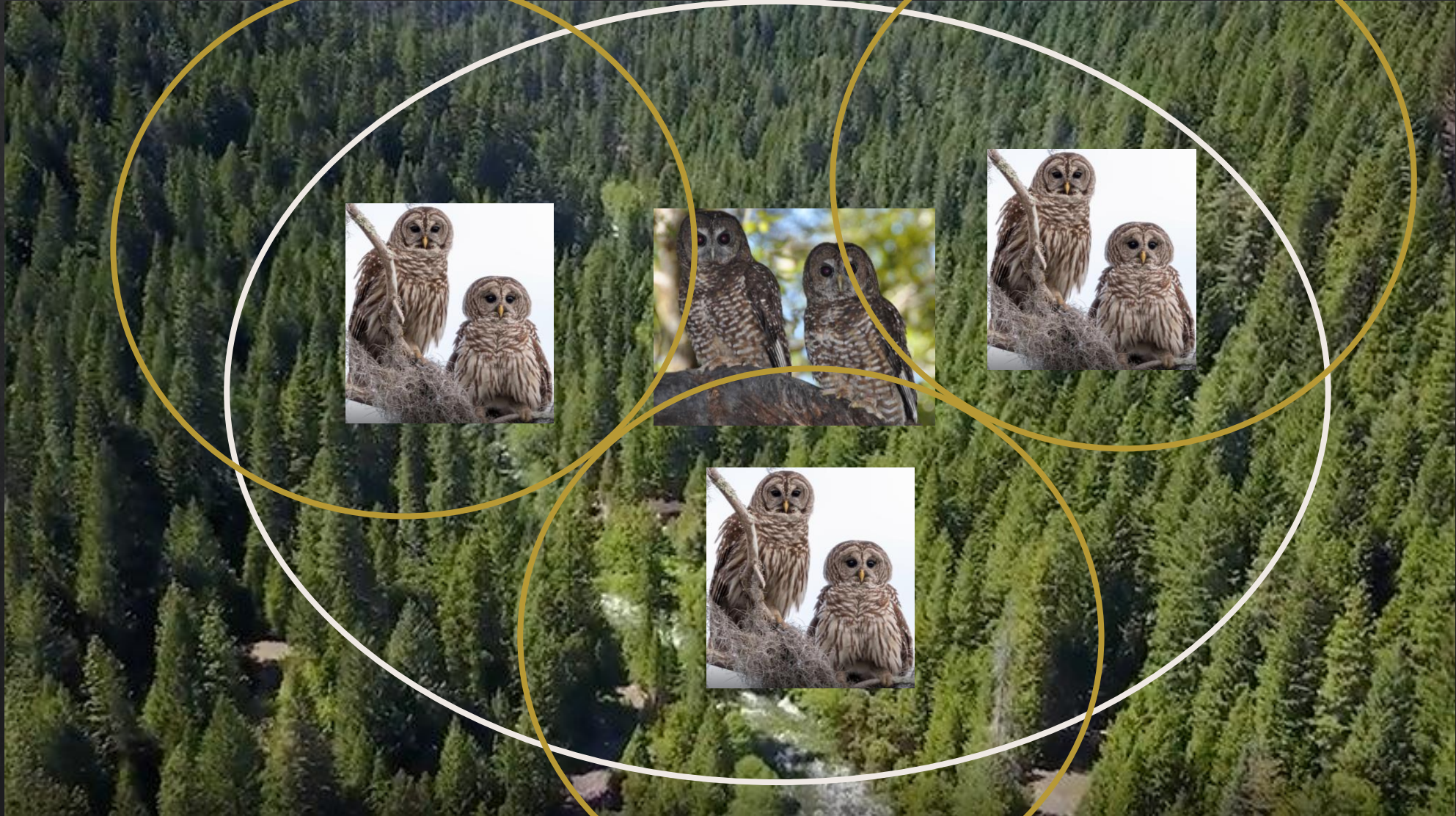
## California Spotted Owl



Small mammals make up to 99% of diet



# Home Range Size





# What Can Be Done?

## ◆ Responsible Forest Management

- ◆ Reduce high-intensity stand-clearing forest fires
- ◆ Protect old growth and primary habitat
- ◆ Reduce spread of tree disease/invasive insects

## ◆ Remove Barred Owls

- ◆ Shown very promising results
- ◆ Spotted owls may return very soon
- ◆ Becoming a more common action by land and wildlife managers