

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Habitat Preference: The Long-eared Owl is considered an edge species because it alternates its time between dense woodland patches and adjacent grassland and prairie marshes. It typically nests and roosts in thick stands of conifer trees. Ideally the trees are rank and the limbs reach the ground. Long-eared Owls are often found in windbreaks, tree farms, or tree plantings.

Threats:

- Distribution is probably limited by the amount of grassland adjacent to suitably dense woodlands or conifer stands.
- Probably limited in number because of competition with and direct predation by Great Horned Owls, which inhabits similar habitats.
- Disturbance or destruction of owl roost sites:
 - Flocks of wintering Long-eared Owls typically return to the same roost sites each year. Short-eared Owls also often associate with long-ears at these same sites.

Appropriate Practices

- Establish grasslands for foraging adjacent to dense woodland patches for nesting.
- Protect large, old rank stands of cedar trees adjacent to woodland and grassland.
- Protect known winter roost sites from disturbance.
- Establish windbreaks using conifers in combination with establishing adjoining grassland habitat.

