



# Santa Lucia Conservancy – *Keeping it Wild*

## Owls on the Preserve

Short winter days offer a wonderful opportunity to experience our nocturnal wildlife. The Preserve's exceptionally diverse and healthy habitat supports a remarkable diversity of owls!



### Burrowing Owl

9" tall with long legs  
Call: high "coo-cooo"  
Prey: small rodents  
Habitat: grasslands  
Found: on Peñon Peak



### Northern Pigmy Owl

7" tall with long tail,  
Call: single or double "toots" repeated  
Prey: small birds  
Habitat: forest and woods  
Found: during the day



### Barn Owl

16" high with a heart shaped face  
Call: long hissing shriek "cssssshhhH"  
Prey: small rodents  
Habitat: grasslands  
Found: throughout the Preserve



### Northern Long-Eared Owl

A foot tall with "ear" tufts  
Call: soft "woop" repeated  
Prey: small mammals  
Habitat: brushy fields and edges  
Found: throughout the Preserve



### Western Screech Owl

8" tall and variable color  
Call: short whistles "pwep"  
Prey: insects and rodents  
Habitat: woods and savanna  
Found: in Potrero Canyon



### California Spotted Owl

17" tall, very elusive  
Call: barking hoot  
"whup, hoo hoo"  
Prey: Small mammals  
Habitat: deep forest  
Found: Robinson Cyn



### Flammulated Owl

Less than 7" tall with notably dark eyes  
Call: soft low "podo poot" repeated  
Prey: insects  
Habitat: in woodlands



**Great Horned Owl** - The largest of the owls on The Preserve at 22" tall. Call is a classic deep "hoo-hoo-hoo." Hunts skunks, rats and other small mammals, found in woodlands

### Northern Saw-Whet

8" tall with a large fluffy head and white V on face  
Call: low whistles "toit toit toit"  
Prey: rodents  
Habitat: forests  
Found: Williams Cyn

