

Nocturnal Owl Surveys in Stanley Park 2007-2009

In 2007 during the Restoration efforts, owl-call playback surveys were conducted by biologists and SPES staff in the park. These surveys have been continued through 2009 by SPES staff and volunteers as a long-term monitoring program. The survey protocol calls for the use of a megaphone loudspeaker to play recorded owl calls using systematic timing. After the recording is played, the surveyors wait and listen for several minutes to see if a territorial owl calls back. The surveys were conducted at SPES's long-term monitoring stations between 2007 and 2009 and the results of the surveys are listed in table 1 below.



Barred owl at Prospect Point

Table 1: Owl Survey Results from Stanley Park 2007-2009.

Date	Location	Species
Apr-07	Cathedral trail (blowdown area S4)	Northern Pygmy owl (heard)
Mar-08	South Creek Trail (blowdown area S2)	Western screech-owl (heard)
Mar-09	Tatlow Trail (blowdown area S4)	Barred owl (heard and observed)

The most well known and common owl species in the Park is the barred owl. These large, grey owls are conspicuous in the dark forest and have become somewhat habituated to human presence. A local naturalist, photographer and SPES volunteer has been keeping a close eye on the nesting owls in the park over the past several years. It took much time and patience, but their nest sites have been located and mapped. In 2009, the northern nest site (near the Hollow Tree) produced 2 fledglings, the western site (near Lovers/Lees/Rawlings trails) produced 1 fledgling and a third nesting site near Beaver Lake may have also produced one fledgling owl.

To learn more about the barred owls in the Park please visit:
<http://www.owlsinthepark.ca/>

To see an interactive map of barred owl nesting sites in the Park please visit:
<http://stanleyparkecology.ca/GoogleMaps/nesting-sites.php>