

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Small & chunky, long-legged, spotted brown with  
big yellow eyes

## LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS

Grasslands and sagebrush

## ACCOMPLICES



Cattle



Prairie Dogs

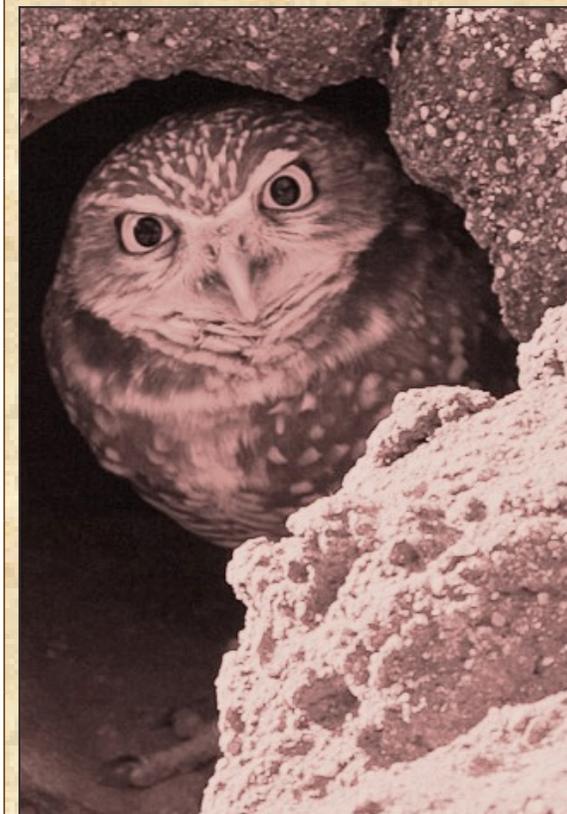


Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) is a non-profit organization committed to conserving Great Plains, Rocky Mountain, and Intermountain West birds and their habitats. Prairie Partners is a program developed by RMBO to address prairie conservation issues through voluntary, working partnerships between landowners, managers and resource professionals throughout the Great Plains. The ultimate goal of Prairie Partners is to build a coalition of landowners and land managers who are actively involved in the conservation of lands important to prairie birds. To accomplish this goal, Prairie Partners works to initiate conservation strategies that benefit landowners as well as wildlife.

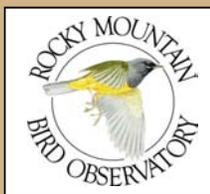


For more information about Burrowing Owls, habitat enhancement and conservation programs, or to schedule a survey visit to your property, please contact RMBO and ask for Prairie Partners. (970) 482-1707.

# WANTED



## Western Burrowing Owl



# HABITAT



The western Burrowing Owl ranges throughout the short- and mixed-grass prairie and sagebrush shrublands of the American West. Burrowing Owls require closely cropped vegetation, for which they rely on cattle along with a number of other mammal species.



Burrowing Owls nest in holes constructed by prairie dogs, badgers, squirrels, or other mammals. Native Americans considered the Owls magical, as they were thought to den with rattlesnakes without being harmed. Colorado is at the core of the Burrowing Owl's range, and with thousands of acres of rangeland, landowners provide a home for many Owls.



# BEHAVIOR

Unique among owls, Burrowing Owls are active both day and night, and most lively at dawn and dusk.



Burrowing Owls are monogamous, and begin mating in early April. In their burrow nests, they will raise 3 to 11 nestlings. When the young owls are approximately 2 months old, they begin to fend for themselves.



# BURROWING OWLS ARE BENEFICIAL TO LANDOWNERS!

- ◆ Their primary prey is insects
- ◆ They also prey on rodents and snakes
- ◆ They are highly sought after by wildlife-watchers, who may pay to see them.

# BURROWING OWLS ARE IN DECLINE, BUT YOU CAN HELP!

- ◆ Keep managing your prairie and shrublands for cattle grazing.
- ◆ Return marginal cropland to pasture.
- ◆ Try to avoid working or using pesticides around nests sites while Burrowing Owls are nesting, approximately mid-April to mid-August.
- ◆ Choose less harmful chemicals when applying around nest sites.

## BURROWING MAMMAL MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Try to be more tolerant of prairie dogs, badgers, and ground-squirrels. Owls require on-going burrow maintenance by mammals; if the mammals are extirpated, Burrowing Owls will leave after a few years.
- ◆ Practice *control* instead of *eradication*. Control outside the Owl nesting season.
- ◆ Educate varmint-hunters about Owls.
- ◆ Become involved in a landowner cost-share program that will help you enhance habitat and production, benefiting your land, livestock, and wildlife.

