

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)



Resident breeder

Status in Quebec: Range: stable Population: increasing

Habitat: mature woodland, deciduous and mixed stands, often near wetlands.

Ecological importance: consumes small mammals (mice, rats, shrews), birds, harmful insects, and reduces the population of deer mice (1st host of Lyme disease).

Why should the Barred Owl be an emblem of Morin-Heights?

The Barred Owl is an ideal emblem for Morin-Heights, as it symbolizes the village's deep connection with nature. Present year-round in the mature forests of the Laurentians, it symbolizes stability, resilience, and continuity. It embodies wisdom, tranquility, and discretion, values that reflect the peaceful and contemplative character of the community. Its intense gaze and nocturnal calls evoke the serenity of a preserved environment. An indicator species of a healthy ecosystem, it also represents Morin-Heights' commitment to the conservation of natural environments. Finally, its elegant appearance and silent flight feed the collective and artistic imagination of a creative population, in harmony with its enchanting landscapes. Finally, the Barred Owl represents an invitation to contemplation, knowledge, and respectful coexistence between humans and nature, making it a unifying and meaningful symbol for the Morin-Heights community.