

Flammulated Owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)

Field Marks:

- length: 6-7 in, wingspan: 16 in
- short, feathered ear tufts
- two color morphs: rufous and gray
- black eyes

Breeding Range:

Flammulated Owls breed in the open pine forest in the mountains of the Western United States.



Wintering Range:

Flammulated Owls have a lengthy migration where they travel to Central Mexico through Guatemala, completely leaving North America every year.

Habitat Preferences:

Ponderosa pines are a favorite of Flammulated owls because it offers an understory and many nesting cavities to choose from. Temperature plays a key role in habitat selection as the Flammulated owl prefers a semi-arid cool climate that is offered by the elevation in North American mountainous regions.

Nesting:

Flammulated owls are secondary cavity nesters who claim previous woodpecker nests without adding any additional nesting material. These owls are monogamous breeders that produce 2-3 eggs per clutch with the female doing all of the incubation lasting from 26 to 28 days. After hatching occurs in June to July, the young leave the nest between 22-25 days later.

Feeding:

Flammulated Owls typically hunt nocturnal insects and inhabit the ponderosa pine due to the abundance of moths and butterflies. Other prey items include crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, and spiders. These owls tend to forage at dawn and dusk with little activity in the middle of the night by capturing insects in the air or off nearby vegetation.

Conservation Status:

Although their conservation status is Least Concern, the Flammulated Owl is thought to be experiencing population declines. The lack of research on the species as a whole means there is little information regarding population trends.