



Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*)



Photo Source: National Park Service



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**Mexican Spotted Owl
(*Strix occidentalis lucida*)**

Federal status: Threatened
Colorado status: Threatened

This medium-sized owl grows to a length of about 17 inches and has a wingspan of 3.3 feet. It is ashy-chestnut brown in color with white and brown spots on the abdomen, back and head. The owl's brown tail is marked with thin white bands. Unlike most owls, the Mexican Spotted Owl has dark eyes. It also has no ear tufts.

Habitat: This species is found in mixed-conifer forests that have experienced minimal human disturbance. It is most common where unlogged, closed-canopy forests occur in steep canyons. Uneven-aged stands with high basal area and many snags and downed logs are most favorable. Most nests are in caves or on cliff ledges in steep, walled canyons. The species is found in 34 Colorado counties.

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