

# Arguile

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)

Sex: Male



## Why is Arguile in Captivity?

Arguile was found in June of 2011 as an immature in Lake Jackson, Texas. It was thought that his wing was caught between the wooden slats of a fence. He suffered extreme bruising and trauma to his left wing which resulted in damage to some of the muscles in his wing. Due to the loss of muscle tissue and nerve damage, his left elbow stiffened making him unable to fly long distances. It was also discovered that he had an old, naturally healed fracture of the right leg. His right foot was dislocated at the ankle joint and when it healed, it caused his foot to twist inward making it difficult for him to perch. He was rehabbed at the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue in Texas and was transferred to the Organization for Bat Conservation on December 15, 2011, and then to the Stage Nature Center in February 2018.

## Typical Barred Owl Species Behavior:

- Barred owls roost quietly in forest trees during the day; however, you may hear an occasional call in daylight hours. At night, they hunt small animals like rodents and give the typical Barred Owl call which sounds like “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?”
- **Habitat:** Heavily wooded areas near water and wooded swamps. They require dense foliage for daytime roosting and large trees with cavities for nesting.
- **Diet:** Barred owls prefer mice, but will also eat other small mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects. Primarily active at night, hunting during the day can be seen on dark cloudy days or in mating season. They may perch over water and drop down to catch fish, or even wade in shallow water in pursuit of fish and crayfish.
- **Lifespan:** Typical lifespan in the wild is 10 years or more. They can live to be 23 years old in captivity.

## Fun Facts About Barred Owls:

- The most serious predatory threat to Barred Owls are Great Horned Owls. Though the two species often live in the same areas, a Barred Owl will move to another part of its territory if a Great Horned Owl is nearby.
- Fossils of Barred Owls that are at least 11,000 years old have been found in Florida, Tennessee, and Ontario.
- Barred Owls don't migrate and typically stay within a six mile radius of their home.
- Young Barred Owls climb trees by grasping the bark with their bill and talons, flapping their wings, and walking their way up the trunk.