

Introducing Shania and Scud – Northern Spotted Owls



Photo: T. Eagalle

Shania (the larger of the pair) is the first-ever Northern Spotted Owl born in captivity on May 18, 2008 at the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Centre. Over six breeding seasons, Shania was introduced to multiple potential mates, but instead of forming a bond, she intimidated all the males attempting to court her.

Scud is a younger male, born in 2010 and wild-caught in the same year. Scud was introduced to Shania in 2014 and was not deterred by her strong personality, like other males.

Shania continued to be stubborn toward Scud during their first breeding season, but he persisted, and they welcomed their first chick together in 2016. After 32 days of artificial incubation and a long hatching period, Elliott, their first chick, emerged from his egg on April 22, 2016. Elliott was the first-ever, second-generation Spotted Owl born in captivity in the world, and Shania has proven that a captive-born Spotted Owl is capable of successfully reproducing.

For the 2017 breeding season, we are hopeful that Scud and Shania will produce up to four offspring.

About the Centre

The Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Centre is located in Langley, B.C., and is the only breeding centre for endangered spotted owls in the world. Guided tours of the breeding centre will begin in summer 2017. In the meantime, you can get to know these beautiful owls through this webcam link.