

2017 Owl Breeding Season: Anticipated Timeline and Behaviour

Owl Behaviour	Time of Year	When to Watch	Calls
Sitting Side by Side	All year	Any time during the day. Scud and Shania will likely be out of camera view after sunset.	None
Allopreening: the male and female will groom each other.	All year	Any time during the day. Scud and Shania will likely be out of camera view after sunset.	None
Prey Delivery: the male will bring food to the female and chick while they are in the nest.	Late February to late May	Sunset	The male will make a four-note call with food in his beak from the nest.
Nest Investigation: the male and female will spend time around and in the nest to determine if it is a suitable nesting site.	All through February	Any time during the day or night.	The male and female will make long series calls from the edge of the nest stump.
Copulation: the male will mount the female and flap his wings for balance.	Early March to mid-April	Sunset, after feeding.	Female will make a chirping sound called "chittling."
Pulling Belly Feathers: the female will pull feathers to create a brood patch to incubate her eggs.	Mid-March	Any time during the day.	None
Female Sitting: the female remains in the nest.	Mid-March	Any time during the day or night.	None
Egg Lay: the female lays 1-3 eggs, three days apart and only leaves the nest once per day. NSO biologists replace her egg with a fake egg to allow the owl egg to be artificially incubated.	Mid-March (first clutch) and early April	Any time during the day, but typically around sunset.	Four-note, series calls, and coweeping from off camera.

The Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program

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Egg Pull: NSO biologists remove all eggs from the nest to encourage females to double clutch.	Late March	Any time during the day, but typically around sunset.	Four-note, series calls, and coweeping from off camera.
Chick Return: the chick is returned to the nest after ten days of hand rearing by NSO biologists.	Mid-April (earliest)	Mid-afternoon.	NSO biologists will play recording of chick sounds.
Chick Fledge: the chick leaves the nest and begins exploring the aviary away from the nest stump.	Late May	Might no longer be visible on nest camera.	None