

DIET OF THE BARN OWL *Tyto alba* NEAR LAKE FROME IN ARID SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S. J. S. DEBUS¹, J. OLSEN² and A. B. ROSE³

¹Division of Zoology, University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales 2351

²Applied Ecology Research Group, Division of Communication and Education, University of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2601

³Associate, The Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2010

(Present address: 61 Boundary Street, Forster, New South Wales 2428)

Received. 9 February 2003

This paper presents an analysis of 56 whole pellets and fragments of approximately 200 pellets of the Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, collected in August 1981 from the arid pastoral zone of north-eastern South Australia. The owl's diet consisted of 67 per cent mammals (62% rodents), 3 per cent birds, 30 per cent lizards and less than 1 per cent insects by number, and 82 per cent mammals (74% rodents), 8 per cent birds, 10 per cent lizards and less than 1 per cent insects by biomass. The introduced House Mouse *Mus domesticus* was the predominant mammal, and only rodent, recorded.