

# Eastern Barn Owl

In the moonlight, a ghostly apparition glides silently through the air, its delicate wings cutting through the darkness with ease. This is the Eastern Barn Owl, a creature of both beauty and mystery. With its heart-shaped face and luminous eyes, this majestic bird has captured the imaginations of humans for centuries.

In the quiet of the night, the Eastern Barn Owl emerges from its hidden roost, ready to hunt. With its keen hearing and razor-sharp talons, it swoops down on unsuspecting prey, snatching up mice and voles with effortless grace. And yet, despite its deadly efficiency as a hunter, the Eastern Barn Owl is also a symbol of peace and wisdom, revered by many cultures as a messenger of the gods.

Serial Number	Characteristic	Description
1.	Common name	Eastern Barn Owl
2.	Scientific Name	Tyto javanica
3.	Colour	Brown and white plumage
4.	Average length in cms	33-36 cm
5.	Average Height in cms	25-30 cm
6.	Type of bird	Bird of prey
7.	Found in India in states	Throughout India
8.	Habitat	Grasslands, agricultural fields, and open forests
9.	Status	Least Concern

## Features

The Eastern Barn Owl is a medium-sized owl species, measuring around 30 to 40 centimeters in length and standing at a height

of about 30 to 35 centimeters. Its wingspan typically ranges from 75 to 100 centimeters, allowing it to glide effortlessly through the air.

This owl is easily recognizable by its distinctive heart-shaped face, which is framed by a ring of white feathers. Its large eyes are black and surrounded by a rim of pale feathers, creating an intense gaze that seems to pierce through the darkness.



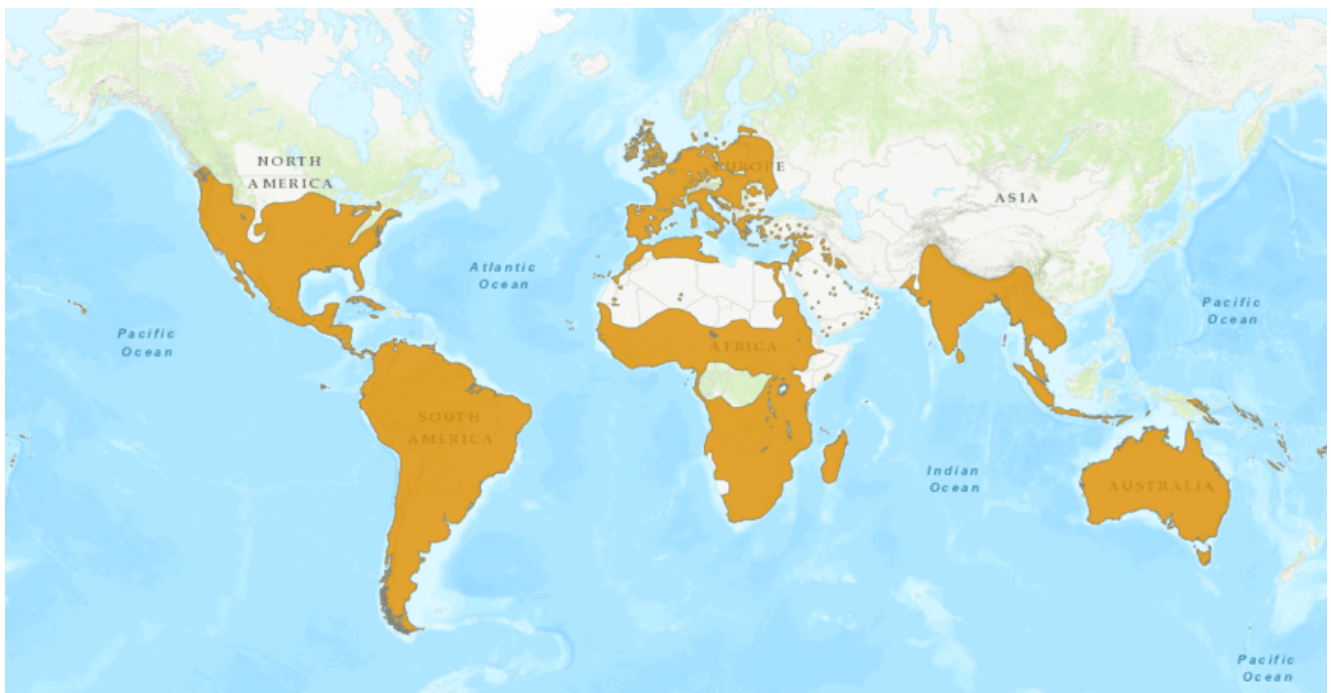
The Eastern Barn Owl's overall coloration is a mix of brown, gray, and white, with a mottled pattern on its back and wings that provides excellent camouflage against tree bark and foliage. Its underparts are usually white or pale gray, and its legs and talons are covered in white feathers.

One unique feature of the Eastern Barn Owl is its ability to change the color of its feathers. During the breeding season, the male's feathers can take on a brighter, more vibrant hue,

while the female's may become darker and more subdued.

## Habitat and Food

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The Eastern Barn Owl is also known to feed on insects, bats, and small birds on occasion, but rodents make up the majority

of its diet. To sustain its high-energy lifestyle, the Eastern Barn Owl needs to consume a significant amount of food each day, with adults typically consuming around three to four mice per night.

## Nesting and Nurturing

The Eastern Barn Owl is a monogamous species that typically mates for life. During breeding season, which usually occurs between February and July, the owl constructs a nest in a cavity, such as a tree hollow, barn, or nest box.

The female Eastern Barn Owl lays an average of four to six white eggs, which she incubates for about 29 to 34 days. During this time, the male provides food for the female and guards the nest, while the female rarely leaves the eggs unattended.



Once the eggs hatch, the female cares for the young chicks while the male continues to provide food for the family. The

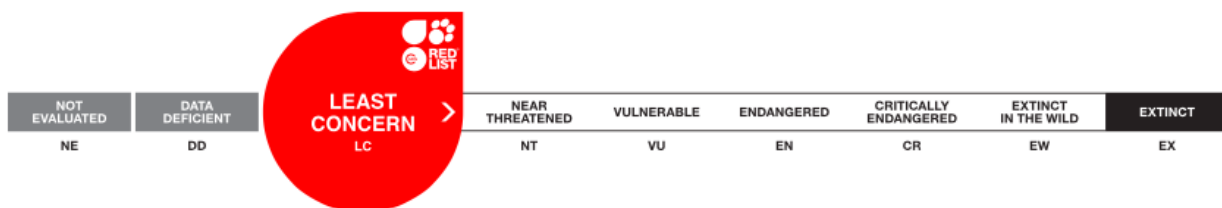
chicks are covered in white down feathers and have large, dark eyes that seem to be constantly watching their surroundings.

For the first few weeks of their lives, the chicks are entirely dependent on their parents for food and warmth. The female feeds them regurgitated food, while the male continues to hunt for the family. As the chicks grow, they become more active and begin to explore their surroundings, strengthening their wings and practicing their hunting skills.

The Eastern Barn Owl's eggs are white and spherical, with a smooth, non-glossy surface. The chicks are born with closed eyes, which open after about 10 days. Once the chicks are fully grown and ready to leave the nest, they will gradually start to explore their surroundings and eventually leave the nest to begin their own independent lives.

## IUCN Status

The Eastern Barn Owl is listed as a species of "Least Concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This means that the species is not currently considered to be in danger of extinction and its population is thought to be stable.



However, like many other bird species, the Eastern Barn Owl faces threats from habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use, and hunting. In some areas, the species has suffered declines due to the loss of nesting sites, such as old trees and barns, and the destruction of grassland habitats.

Conservation efforts, such as the creation of nest boxes and

the protection of grassland habitats, have helped to support the Eastern Barn Owl's population in many areas. However, continued monitoring and conservation efforts will be necessary to ensure the species' long-term survival.