# [Barn Owl](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/barn-owl/):

Barn owls are one of the most widely distributed [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/)found everywhere around the world apart from the polar and [desert](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/desert/) regions. Although this is the case, the barn owl population is more predominant in the Southern Hemisphere due to better climate conditions for the barn owl.  
  
Barn owls tend to measure between 25 and 40cm tall and adult barn owls can have a [wingspan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-wingspan) of up to 110cm long. The wing span of the barn owl is however dependent on the [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of barn owl so some owls may be smaller, where other [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of barn owl may be much bigger.  
  
Surprisingly, these common barn owls do not make the hoot sound that can often be heard at night. Instead the owls produce a high-pitched scream and can also hiss in a similar way to a [cat](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cat/)or [snake](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/snake/) if the barn owl feels threatened.  
  
Barns owls can be most commonly seen in the open countryside and along river banks, fields and even the verges on the side of the road. Barn owls are [nocturnal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-nocturnal) [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) meaning that typically barn owls rest during the light day time hours and emerge at dusk to begin a night of hunting.  
  
Barn owls most commonly hunt small [mammals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-mammal) such as mice, voles and [rats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rat/) but barn owls also hunt [fish](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fish/) close to the surface of the water and smaller [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) in the tree tops and even in the air. Barn owls swallow their [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) whole and then bring back up (regurgitate) the indigestible parts such as bones in the form of a small pellet.  
  
Barn owls are well suited to their [nocturnal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-nocturnal) [lifestyle](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle). The large eyes of the barn owl enable the barn owl to have fantastic eyesight even in the darkness of night, but barn owls also have incredibly accurate hearing. The ears of the barn owl are set with one higher than the other giving the barn owl better hearing in general but it also means that when the barn owl is hunting for [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey), it can use one ear to detect noise on the ground below and the other ear is used to detect noise from the air and trees above.  
  
Female barn owls lay a clutch of up to 7 eggs in the warm months of spring. The female barn owl nests in a hollow tree or rock, and the barn owl eggs usually hatch after about a month. The male barn owl is known to help feed the barn owl chicks and the barn owl chicks are able to [fly](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fly/)by the time they are 12 weeks old.  
  
Although the barn owl, is not considered to be a [threatened](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/threatened/) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), the barn owl population numbers have severely decreased over the years due to pollution and [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat) loss as the barn owls are finding it harder and harder in some areas to find food. Despite this being true, the barn owl population in the UK is thought to be increasing again.  
  
There are more than 30 different [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of barn owl found across [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/), [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/), [Asia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/asia/) and parts of [Australia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/) and the Americas. All barn owl [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) have a similar appearance but can differ great in both [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size) and [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour).

# Barn Owl Facts:

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| [Kingdom](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom): | Animalia |
| [Phylum](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum): | Chordata |
| [Class](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class): | Aves |
| [Order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order): | Strigiformes |
| [Family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family): | Tytonidae |
| [Genus](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus): | Tyto |
|  | |
| [Scientific Name](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name): | Tyto Alba |
| [Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type): | Bird |
| [Diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet): | Carnivore |
| [Size (H)](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size): | 25cm - 45cm (9.8in - 18in) |
| [Wingspan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-wingspan): | 75cm - 110cm (30in - 43in) |
| [Weight](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight): | 300g - 550g (10oz - 19.4oz) |
| [Top Speed](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed): | 80km/h (50mph) |
| [Lifespan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan): | 5 - 10 years |
| [Lifestyle](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle): | Solitary |
| [Conservation Status](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status): | Least Concern |
|  | |
| [Colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour): | Black, White, Grey, Orange, Brown |
| [Skin Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type): | Feathers |
| [Favourite Food](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food): | Small mammals |
| [Habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat): | Open plains and low-lying woodland |
| [Average Clutch Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-clutch-size): | 4 |
| [Main Prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey): | Small mammals, Fish, Birds |
| [Predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators): | Fox, Raccoon, Wild dogs |
| [Distinctive Features](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features): | White heart-shaped face and large, dark eyes |