

ALPHABETS OF OWLS



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&
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Alphabets of Owls

(Kid-friendly owl information – discover the fascinating world of owls!)



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Dedicated to all

Owl Lovers





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Thank you.





HELLO! NAMASKAR!!

I'M AN OWL.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME ?

**JUST TURN THE PAGES, AND YOU'LL
LEARN ABOUT US!**



Let's Know the A - Z of Owls

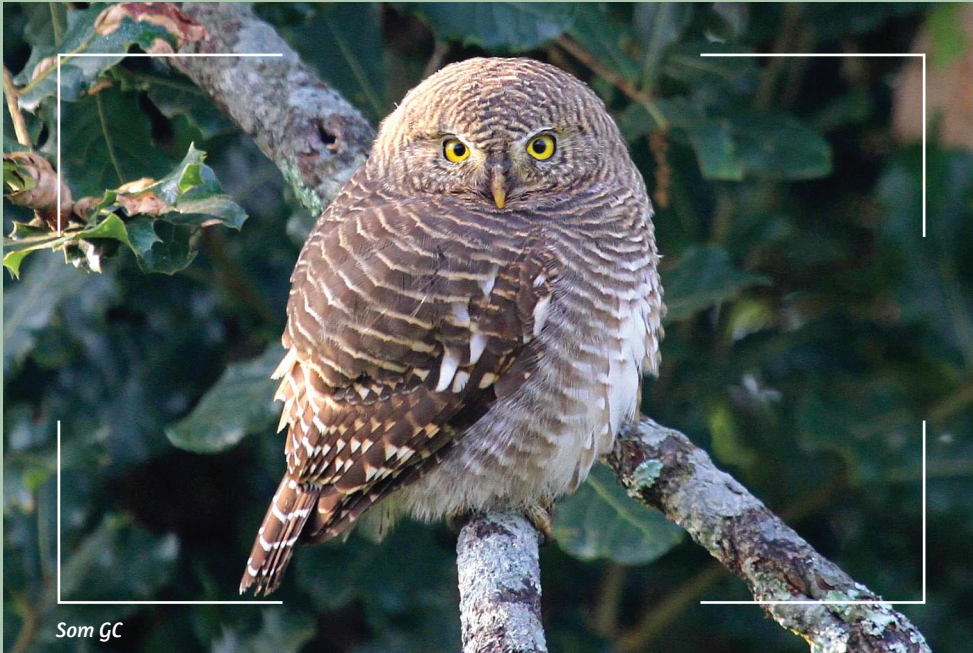
The book gives general information about owls
not specific species in photographs. Owls
found in Nepal are also provided with their
Nepali names.



Asian Barred Owlet

(*Glaucidium cuculoides*)

(ढुलो डुडुल)



Owls are birds with big round eyes and a pointy beak, and they can fly silently. There are two owl families: Barn Owls (*Tytonidae*), known for their heart-shaped faces, and all other owls (*Strigidae*), which typically do not have heart-shaped faces.

Barn Owl

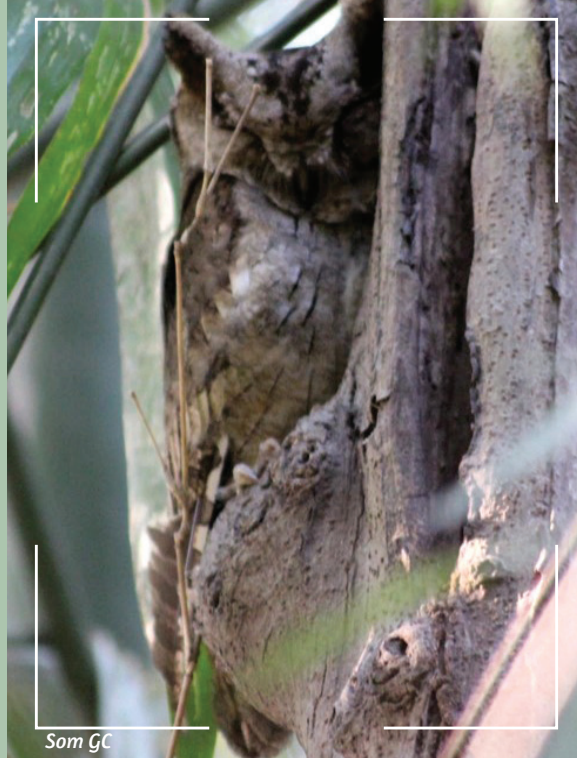
(*Tyto alba*)

(गोठे लाटोकोसेरो)



Owls live on every continent except Antarctica, and they are found in various habitats, such as tundra, grasslands, marshes, swamps, forests, mountains, and islands. Most owls are well-suited for the forest but sadly, they face increasing challenges due to deforestation.

Collared Scops-owl (*Otus lettia*) (चित्री उलूक)



The total number of owl species recorded so far has reached 268, the molecular data is only available for some 150 species. 68% of the world's owls occur in the Southern hemisphere and the remaining 32% in the northern hemisphere.

Dusky Eagle-owl

(*Bubo coromandus*)

(भासोलूक)



Many species of owl have ear tufts also known as plumicorns, which are bunches of feathers on the sides of their heads. Even though they may look like ears, they actually don't play a role in hearing. Ear tufts have specific purposes. They act as display feathers to show their feelings like anger, fear, communication, or excitement.

Eurasian Eagle-owl

(Bubo bubo)

(हिमाली हाप्सिलो)



Owl's eyes are special because they're quite large, taking up about 1-5% of their body size. These eyes are super helpful as they have higher density of special cells called rod cells that are great at seeing in low light. This means owls can see really well during dawn and dusk when it's not too bright and not too dark.

Fulvous Owl

(*Strix fulvescens*)



The group of Owl is commonly known as Parliament. Owls are very commonly attacked or even harassed by groups of smaller birds as they are predators. Surprisingly, owls rarely respond or get harmed during these encounters.

Great Horned Owl

(Bubo virginianus)



Most owls, about 69%, like to come out at night. Some, about 22%, are active in the early morning and evening. Only a few, just 3%, are out during the daytime. We don't know about 6% of owls because we haven't studied them yet. The daytime sighting of an owl is affected by the amount of light, darkness, food availability, and habitat type.

Himalayan Owl

(*Strix niviculum*)
(कैलो पहाडी उलुक)



Tashi R. Ghale

Owls make unique sounds. Barn Owls hiss, Eastern Screech-owls sound like horses, and Northern Saw-whet Owls sound like a sharpening saw. When they sing, owls don't open their beaks like songbirds. Instead, they puff up their throats, making small white balls that shine in the dark.

Indian Scops-owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)



Owls eat different types of food. They enjoy eating bugs like insects, snails, earthworms and crabs. Also, they catch and eat fish, reptiles, frogs and sometimes small animals. Bigger owls even hunt and eat smaller owls.

Jungle Owlet

(*Glaucidium radiatum*)

(डुडुल)



Sudeep KC

Owls can drink water, but they usually get most of their water from the animals they eat. When they digest the fat in their prey, it creates water for them. They make about one gram of water for every gram of fat they eat.

Koepcke's Screech-owl

(*Megascops koepckeae*)



Owls have baby owls, called owlets, within a year. But bigger owls might take 2-3 years. Sometimes, the stronger owlet eats the weaker ones, and that's called sibling predation.

Long-eared Owl

(*Asio otus*)

(लामकाने लाटोकोसेरो)



In general, owls don't build their nests. They prefer using old nests of other birds, abandoned nests of raptors, tree holes, rocks, and various locations including human settlements. They even dig holes in empty anthills to make their homes.

Mottled Wood-owl

(*Strix ocellata*)
(कब्रार लाटोकोसेरो)



In the movie Harry Potter, Harry has a snowy owl named Hedwig as his pet. Seven different owls: Gizmo, Casper, Oops, Swoops, Oh Oh, Elmo, and Bandit, played the role of Hedwig. They helped Harry to communicate with the Wizard.

Northern Hawk-owl

(*Surnia ulula*)



Owls can be either residential or migratory. Some owls like Long-eared owls, Short-eared owls, and Snowy owls migrate to different places. On the other hand, species like Eastern Barn Owl, Powerful Owl, and Eastern Screech-owls do not migrate, they stay in their homes year-round.

Oriental Scops-owl (*Otus sunia*) (लोखर्के उलुक)



The International Festival of Owls started in 2003 as a "hatch-day" party for Alice, the Great Horned Owl in the USA. Now, the festival is celebrated in three additional countries; Nepal, Italy, and India. Recently, Nepal celebrated the 10th Owl Festival.

Pallid Scops-owl (*Otus brucei*)



Some owls have interesting behaviors. They ‘sunbathe’ by spreading their wings and enjoying the sunlight. Furthermore, they sometimes do ‘anting’, which means they rub ants on their feathers to get rid of parasites.

Quietdo



Owls are incredibly silent flyers. Their special feathers make their flight nearly noiseless (Quietdo), so they can hunt without being heard. This is one of the reasons why they are such skilled hunters in the night.

Rock Eagle-owl

(*Bubo bengalensis*)

(हाप्सिलो)



Raju Acharya

Owls are really clever! When they think a bad animal is near their nest, they pretend to have a hurt wing. They do this by walking funny or slowing down. This tricks the bad animals and keeps their babies safe.

Spotted Owlet

(*Athene brama*)

(कोचलगाँडे लाटोकोसेरो)



Hitendra Jha

Most owl moms (females) are bigger and heavier than their dads (males). Moms are great at looking after the eggs and keeping the nest safe. Dads, being smaller, are like super-fast hunters for the family. They can zip around and find food without getting tired easily.

Tawny Fish-owl

(*Ketupa flavipes*)
(कैलो मलाहा हुचिल)



Owls maintain their territory, especially when they are breeding. Spot-bellied owls are known as ‘Tigers with feathers’ because of their aggressive behavior in protecting their nests and young ones.

Ural Owl

(*Strix uralensis*)



Owls cannot digest all the food they eat. The parts they can't digest like hairs, bones, skin, and teeth are formed into pellets. Owls take these pellets out of their mouth with the help of the mucus. Pellets are useful to study the diet of owls and the prey species found in their habitat.

Vermiculated Screech-owl (*Megascops vermiculatus*)



Roger Alhman

In Africa, people use owls in different ways. Some eat them as food, and others use them for medicine and even in magic. Local people in central Nepal, hang dead owls on their doors. They believe that bad omens are halted at the door and the house remains safe.

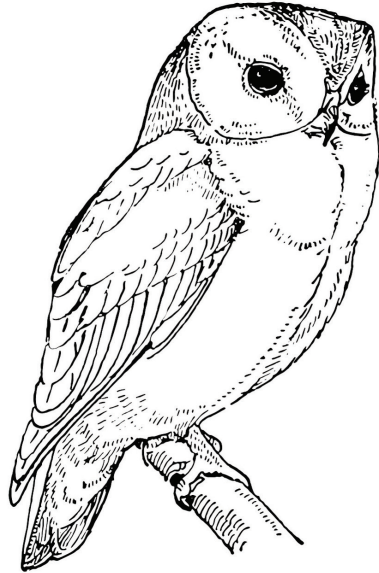
White-faced Owl

(Northern)
(Ptilopsis leucotis)



Albinism, which means having very little or no color in their feathers, is not common in owls. So far, it has been seen in only five types of owls: the Eastern Screech Owl in New York, Brown Wood Owl in Sri Lanka, Tawny Owl in Italy, Barred Owl in North America, and Short-eared Owl in the Netherlands.

Xenobiosis



None of the owls have names starting with 'X'. They are like night-time detectives in the forest. They quietly catch mice and other animals when it's dark outside. Unlike some animals that help each other (Xenobiosis), owls don't have friends in the animal world. They catch their own food just like secret agents.

Yungas Pygmy-owl

(Glaucidium bolivianum)



Owls are incredible because they can turn their heads almost all the way around, up to 270 degrees! Their bodies have a special way of moving blood to help their brains and eyes when they twist their necks like that. Unlike most animals, owls have only one pivot joint in their neck, which makes it super flexible.

Zygodactyl



Owls have a special way of holding onto things with their feet. They have two toes in front and two toes in the back, like a kind of 'Z.' Even though no owl's name starts with 'Z,' you can find them in zoos. People keep owls in zoos to show others, help them get better if they're hurt, teach people about them, and learn more about them through research.



Nepal has 23 different owl species. The biggest is the Eurasian Eagle Owl and the smallest is the Collared Owlet. Owls are seen as a symbol of both good and bad luck in Nepal. But they're helpful to farmers because they eat a lot of rodents.

Owls live all over Nepal, but we don't know much about the Long-eared Owl except in Mustang, and we haven't seen the Oriental Bay-owl since the 19th century.

Nepal celebrates the 'Owl Festival' because owls are vital to nature and society. It teaches people about owls and why it's important to protect them. Similar festivals happen in the USA, Italy, and India. Nepal also has a plan called 'Owl Conservation Action Plan 2020-2029' to make owl habitats better, stop illegal hunting and trade, conduct more research, and educate people.

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We're in trouble because people are cutting down our homes (forests), starting big fires, setting traps, and hunting us illegally. Some even try to sell us! People also have different beliefs about us, and they use strong chemicals (pesticides) in the places where we live (farmland). And, not many people know about us. We need help to stay safe!

Some of our owl family members have already disappeared forever. Some of us are getting fewer and might disappear soon.

We want to live together peacefully with you. Can you save us?





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