

Barn Owls



Some barn owls are nocturnal but also they can be seen at sunset or early morning. They have a white, heart-shaped face and a white chest with small brown spots. Their back is tawny, marked with black and white spots. They are a similar size to a small cat.



Fascinating Facts

Barn owls make a screeching noise, not a hoot like the tawny owl.

Baby owls are called owlets.

Where Do They Live?

Barn owls live in a range of habitats including farm buildings, dovecotes, church towers, hollow trees and cliff sites. Some owls prefer to live in the open grasslands, farmlands and woodlands that are no more than 2,000 metres high. Some of these species are also found along the edges of woods.

What Do They Eat?

Barn owls eat mainly small mammals like voles, shrews, rats and mice. Sometimes they eat birds, insects and even frogs. On average, a wild barn owl eats about 4 small mammals per night, that's 1,460 per year.

Staying Safe

If they feel threatened, they will squint their eyes, spread their wings and sway their head back and forth, while hissing. If this does not stop their attacker, the barn owl will lie on its back and protect itself with its sharp talons.

Questions about...

Barn Owls



Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What does a barn owl look like?

2. Where do barn owls live?

3. What do barn owls eat?

4. What do they do if they feel threatened?

5. What sound do they make?

6. What is a baby barn owl called?
