

Barn owl



Barn owl



Barn owl in flight

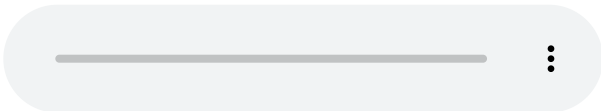
Scientific name: **Tyto alba**

Bird family: Owls

UK conservation status: Green

Protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Barn owl call audio



Patrik Aberg, Xeno-canto

Key information

With heart-shaped face, buff back and wings and pure white underparts, the barn owl is a distinctive and much-loved countryside bird. Widely distributed across the UK, and indeed the world, this bird has suffered declines through the 20th century and is thought to have been adversely affected by organochlorine pesticides such as DDT in the 1950s and '60s.

Nocturnal birds like the barn owl are poorly monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey and, subject to this caveat, numbers may have increased between 1995-2008.

Barn owls are a Schedule 1 and 9 species.

What they eat:

Mice, voles, shrews and some larger mammals and small birds.

Measurements:

Length:

33-39cm

Wingspan:

80-95cm

Weight:

250-350g

Population:



UK breeding:

41,000 pairs

UK breeding is the number of pairs breeding annually. UK wintering is the number of individuals present from October to March. UK passage is the number of individuals passing through on migration in spring and/or

10-220,000 pairs

Identifying features:

Barn owl

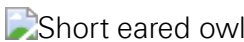
Feather colour: Brown Cream/buff Grey White

Leg colour: Brown Pink White

Beak: Brown Medium length Hooked Chunky

Natural habitats: Farmland Grassland Marine and intertidal Wetland

Similar birds:



Short eared owl

Short-eared owl

Where and when to see them

Barn owls can be seen in open country, along field edges, riverbanks and roadside verges.

* This map is intended as a guide. It shows general distribution rather than detailed, localised populations.

Resident

Passage

Summer

Winter



Barn owl distribution map

Barn owls can be seen all year round; during the day, but best at dusk.

This bird can be seen in the UK in: jan feb mar apr may jun jul aug sep oct nov dec

RSPB reserves

[RSPB Capel Fleet](#)

[RSPB Dearne Valley Old Moor](#)

[RSPB Havergate Island](#)

[RSPB Middleton Lakes](#)

[RSPB Bempton Cliffs](#)

[RSPB Boyton and Hollesley Marshes](#)


[RSPB Pulborough Brooks](#)


[RSPB Rockland Marshes](#)


[RSPB Strumpshaw Fen](#)

[RSPB Geltsdale](#)

In more depth

 Breeding


 Habitat

 Hunting

Breeding

Habitat

Hunting

 Legal status

Legal status