

# BARN OWL

(*TYTO ALBA AFFINIS*)

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN\*



**WE ARE BIRDS**

with a lifespan of 4-8 years in the wild or 10-30 years in captivity

**Origin:** Worldwide.

**Diet:** They eat small mammals, birds, bats, small reptiles, frogs and insects. They usually swallow their prey whole. They are carnivores.

**Predators:** Nestlings are sometimes eaten by stoats, snakes, birds of prey and foxes.

**Habitat:** Open countryside such as pasture, grasslands and parks.



\*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 08.02.19



Height

**32-40cm**



Weight

**KG 430-652g**



Top Speed

**50mph**

## DID YOU KNOW?

A barn owl can catch its prey with hearing alone and they are silent in flight.

Barn Owls make eerie screeching and hissing noises.

A Barn Owl's eyes are twice as light sensitive as a human's eyes.

A Barn Owl is about the size of a small cat, but only weighs a pound.

There are over 40 sub-species of Barn Owl.

**GET UP CLOSE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE AMAZING BIRDS BY BOOKING AN OWL EXPERIENCE!**

## ADAPTATIONS

Barn Owls have long legs, toes and talons to help them catch their prey in deep vegetation. Their soft feathers quietens their flight allowing them to sneak up on their prey, whilst their large wings and small body allows them to hover. They have excellent hearing and eye sight - their heart shaped facial features collect and direct sound to their inner ear.

## REPRODUCTION

Barn Owls do not build nests. They lay their eggs on the previous year's nesting debris or onto the pellets which they produce. Females lay 4-7 eggs in the spring which take around 30 days to hatch. They hatch in the order they were laid and the age gap between the oldest and youngest hatchling can be as much as three weeks. They learn to fly at 50-55 days old.

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE OWLS**