



Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

Why in News?

Recently, **Spot Bellied Eagle Owl (*Bubo Nipalensis*)** was spotted for the first time in [Seshachalam forest](#), and for the third time in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- It was sighted twice earlier at [Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve\(NSTR\)](#).

What is a Spot-bellied Eagle Owl?

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- **About:**

- The **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl**, also known as the **Forest eagle-owl** is a large owl species

typically found in wooded areas, such as **forests and rocky hillsides**, and are known for their **distinctive spots on their belly**.

- The spot-bellied eagle-owls are **large, very powerful and bold predatory birds**.
- The bird makes a strange scream similar to humans and it is hence called the '**Ghost of the Forest**' in India.
- **Distribution:**
 - These eagle-owl species are distributed in **India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam**.
- **Prey:**
 - They are known to prey on large birds and also on mammals like [golden jackals](#), **hares, civets and chevrotains**.
- **IUCN and CITES Status:**
 - [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red list](#): "**Least Concern**".
 - **CITES (the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#))** : **Appendix II**.

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve

- The Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Sanctuary was declared officially in 1978 and has been recognized by the Project Tiger in 1983.
- **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve** is the largest tiger reserve in India.
- In 1992, it was retitled as **Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The Tiger reserve is spread over 5 districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The area consists mostly of the **Nallamala Hills**.
- The multipurpose reservoirs- **Srisailem and Nagarjunsagar** are located in the reserve.
- The **Krishna River** cuts the basin of this reserve.

Source: [TH](#)

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