



## US to Kill Barred Owls

Source: [HT](#)

Recently, US wildlife officials have decided to kill **Barred Owls (*Strix varia*)** to help save the declining **Spotted Owl (*Strix Occidentalis*)** populations in the US.

- Under this plan, **trained professionals and landowners** will be allowed to **shoot the barred owls**. However, public hunting of barred owls **will not be allowed**.
- Barred owls are native to North America. They look similar to spotted owls.
- Barred owls are **larger, more aggressive, and can readily adapt** to their broad diet.
  - Their invasion of the west of the US has put a heavy strain on the spotted owl, decreasing their populations by up to **65 to 85%** between 1995 and 2017 in some areas.
  - Killing would also help other species that they've been preying on such as **salamanders** and **crayfish**.

	Barred Owls	Spotted Owl
IUCN Status	Least Concerned	Near Threatened
Habitat	Woodlands, wooded river bottoms, wooded swamps in North America	Mature forests of British Columbia and Washington.

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## INDIAN EAGLE OWL



- ABOUT**
  - Scientific Name: *Bubo bengalensis*
  - Also called the rock eagle-owl or Bengal eagle-owl.
  - It is a large horned owl species native to hilly and rocky scrub forests in the Indian Subcontinent.
  - It was earlier known as a subspecies of the Eurasian eagle-owl.
- APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOUR**
  - It is splashed with brown and grey feather.
  - It has a white throat patch with black small stripes.
  - It is a nocturnal species most of the time seen in pairs.
  - It has a deep resonant booming call that may be heard at dawn and dusk.
- FEATURES**
  - Hunting: For food they primarily hunt rats and mice, but will also take birds up to the size of peafowl.
  - Conservation:
    - IUCN Status: Least Concern.
- HABITAT**
  - They are seen in scrub and light to medium forests.
  - They are especially seen near rocky places within the mainland of the Indian Subcontinent south of the Himalayas and below 1,500 m (4,900 ft) elevation.
  - Humid evergreen forest and extremely arid areas are avoided for habitat.

Read more: [Spot Bellied Eagle Owl](#)

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