

Night Life

Hunters of the Night



Barn Owl with its Prey

While most birds are diurnal, owls are nocturnal in habit (with a couple of exceptions). They are birds of prey belonging to the order Strigiformes which is one of the three orders representing raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes being the other two). These two facets together have allowed them to occupy a unique ecological niche as nocturnal birds of prey. Owls have evolved sensory adaptations that allow them to hunt in dim light and exploit the faintest of sound to compute the precise location of their prey making them formidable hunters of the night.

Photo Credit: Joby Joseph, University of Hyderabad

Text Credit: Manjari Jain, IISER Mohali