

GRASS OWL

Tyto longmembris

I am a GRASS OWL

I'm a rare, **nocturnal**, **carnivorous**, ground-dwelling bird

Look at me !

I have long legs for reaching into the long grass for prey, good eyesight to see in the dark, strong **talons** for catching prey, sharp, curved claws for holding on to my prey, and soft rounded wings to fly silently at night.

What do I eat ?

Large insects, small **mammals**, **reptiles**, frogs and small birds.

Where do I live ?

Tall grasslands and swampy country. Also swampy heaths and woodlands with tall grass for shelter, nesting and hunting in these parts of Australia.

How do I reproduce?

I make a trampled grass nest on the ground near a tussock. I make tunnels through the long grass to reach the nest. I lay about 8 eggs in the nest. When the chicks hatch out they are covered with white, downy feathers.

Things I do !

I shelter and nest under a large tussock.
I hide in the long grass and I'm very hard to see!

My predators

Feral cats and foxes.

Why am I a **threatened** species?

People disturb my habitat when they clear the land for cattle and development. When people poison rats and mice they also poison my food. Frequent burning off destroys my habitat. I am rare because foxes and **feral** cats attack my young nestlings.

DID YOU KNOW?

Foxes and feral cats are my main predators.
How do you think I escape from them?

MY SPECIAL ADAPTATIONS (read the text)

I have long legs for _____

I have good eyesight for _____

I have strong feet for _____

I have sharp claws for _____

I have rounded wings for _____



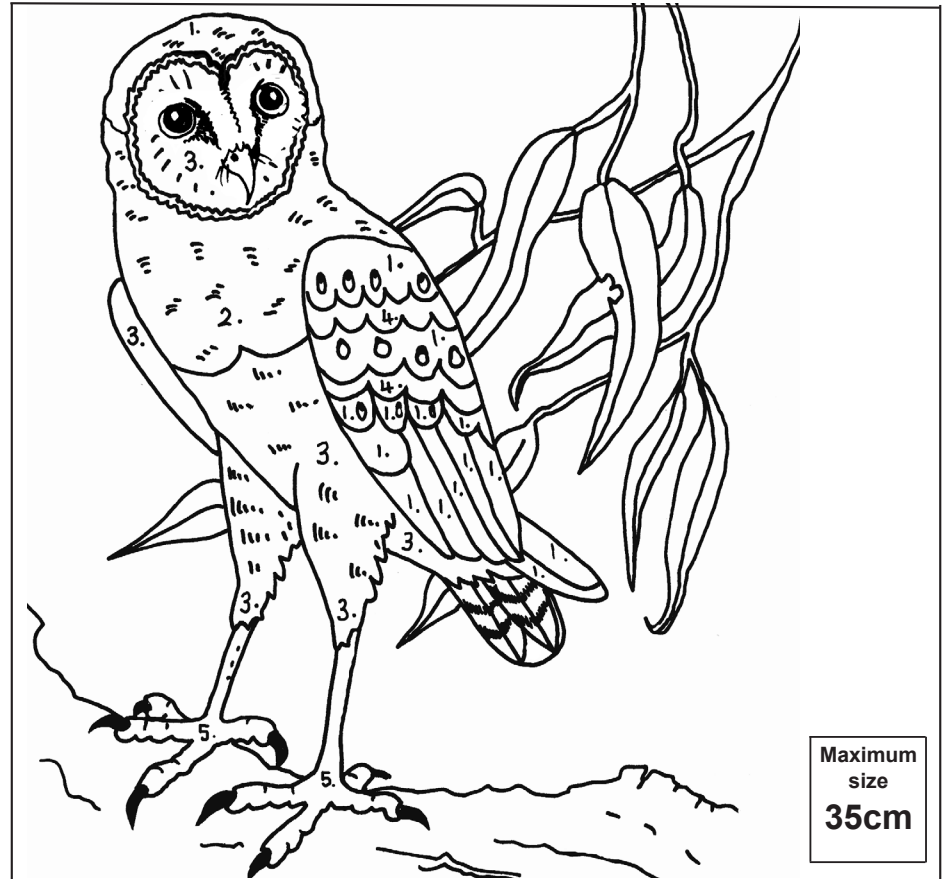
COLOUR YES OR NO

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Does a Grass Owl lay eggs? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 2. Is a Grass Owl threatened by fire? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 3. Do Grass Owls eat plants? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 4. Does a Grass Owl have lungs? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5. Does a Grass Owl perch in trees? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 6. Do Grass Owls need protecting? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 7. Do I live in the rainforest? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 8. Can a Grass Owl live in the desert? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

Find out more at

www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/eastern-grass-owl
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/education-resources/grass-owl.html>
www.australian-animals.net/owls.htm



Maximum size
35cm

Sharp, quality coloured pencils are recommended for a better result. Use a field guide or the coloured photos on the disc to check colours.

I am found in these parts of Australia



Colour by numbers

- Golden brown
- Very pale rusty brown
- White (include spots on wing)
- Pale brown

BEAK, LEGS and TAIL - Very pale creamy yellow
SPOTS ON WINGS - White

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS.

HOW HAVE I ADAPTED TO SURVIVE IN MY ENVIRONMENT?

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE A GRASS OWL AND PEOPLE WERE BURNING OFF CLOSE BY?