

Little Owl breeding habitat in Iran

Written by Ali Sadr

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Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) breeding habitat in Iran is usually in old seasonal river banks in rocky semi-deserts and deserts of Iran. one of the fascinating places to watch many of them breeding in extreme eastern steppes of Iran around Birjand Province.

Little owl often sits in the open in day time around the nest and if agitated, often bobs in an upright posture.

{gallery}owl/little-owl:130::{/gallery}

In Iran little owl's back and wings goes to deep grey-brown, spotted with white. The underside is white with broad, broken streaks of grey-brown. The face is marked by dark areas around the yellow eyes that give a frowning look.



Little owls are widely distributed throughout Iran from upper central Iran to the South. While they seem not to be found around northern Iran but they are often seen wintering northern central Iran but seldom to the Caspian sea coast. Its' been told they have a wide distribution across the

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world, mostly in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia Minor.

I think there is less knowledge about the distribution of birds of middle-east specially Iran since they are native of almost all steppes country wide not to mention native breeders.

My study started from the extreme east of Iran down to the south through the Sahara plain style borders of Iran and all I can say is they have their kingdom down the boarder.

The population looks healthy in eastern Iran and down the boarder with Afghanistan and Pakistan building its way up to central Iran. I am working on a mapping strategy to be able to better show case migration, distribution, breeding and local navigation of little owl through Iran by means of Google Map.

Food sources back up the fact that there would be a healthy increase in numbers. Although there is a decline in population in central regions due to pollution, human over population, illegal hunting and stuff of that nature but these birds shows a tendency being able to live in harsh environment and survive quiet well.