

# feedback

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## A New Barn Owl Book

'Barn Owls Evolution and Ecology' by Prof. Alexandre Roulin

Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1-107-16575-5

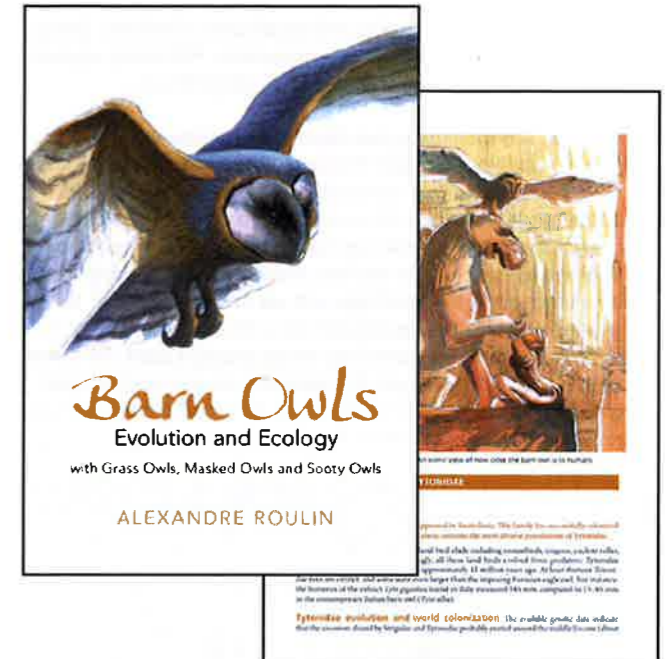
Although we've known about Alex Roulin's Barn Owl research at the University of Lausanne for many years, it was not until the World Owl Conference 2017 that we first met face-to face.

The team he leads have not only researched important aspects of Barn Owl ecology, like foraging behaviour and home ranges using GPS technology, but also some fascinating aspects of their evolution based on DNA sampling. Fairly high-end scientific stuff (!) yet Alex has managed to produce a book that's highly accessible to all owl enthusiasts. It's packed full of new information and is beautifully illustrated.

We were asked to look at an early draft of the 'conservation' chapter and pleased to see that our comments have all been taken on board. Other chapters provide fascinating insights into the private lives of Barn Owls. Did you know, for example, that nestlings feed each other and even 'negotiate' or that Barn Owls promote cross-border cooperation between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians?

Amazing stuff!

Well done Alex & team!



## A Barn Owl in Winter

We were thrilled when Jane Eardley got in touch with us to share some lovely photos of her local Barn Owls...

I have lived in remote areas of the countryside all my life, and I've always had a love of Owls. I can remember as a child seeing the occasional sighting of a Barn Owl on our farm.

These past few years there has been lots more Barn Owls where I now live, out in the Staffordshire moorlands. In February 2021 we had a really cold spell with lots of snow, ice and sub zero temperatures. I had not seen the local Barn Owls for a few days and was starting to worry if they'd managed to find sufficient food.

Then late one afternoon I saw the familiar flash of white fly past the cottage and I saw a Barn Owl land in my field. I managed to get my camera out just in time to photograph it eating the vole.



A Barn Owl hunting in winter  
Photo provided



Short-Eared Owl enjoys 'lunch'  
Photo provided

I thought I would share the photos with you all. I use a Nikon D500 with 200-500 lens for my bird photography.

I am lucky to also have resident Tawny Owls in the wood, and Short Eared Owls just a bit further up on the moors. Watching the SEOs hunting is such a joy. I've got a few nice photos of them too, which I thought you all might like to see.

As I have had many sightings in my fields of the Barn Owls, I've now put an indoor box in one of the old buildings in the hope that they might choose to make their home here one day.

It is great to see the good work that the Barn Owl Trust is doing to educate people about these beautiful birds.

Jane Eardley