

“Forest Owlet”



As with most bird species, habitat destruction and deforestation are the main threats to the existence of the Forest Owlets. Illegal wood cutting and expansion of agriculture has greatly reduced, and continues to reduce, the forest this owlet requires. Superstitious beliefs among the local human populations also take a toll of the owlet. The eggs of the owlet are thought to boost

one's chances of winning when gambling, and killing a baby owlet is supposed to make the person more fertile.

Conservation efforts are under way to educate the villagers about the owlets so that they will stop killing them needlessly. The Melghat Tiger Reserve has also received more protection since the discovery of the Forest Owlet, which has helped to stabilize the numbers of these small birds. The Forest Owlet is now not only protected by CITES (an international treaty to protect endangered plants and animals), but the Indian government has awarded it full protection from trapping, egg collection, and hunting.

Laura Palermo donates 10% of the profits from all wildlife art sales to conservation of our threatened and endangered species.