



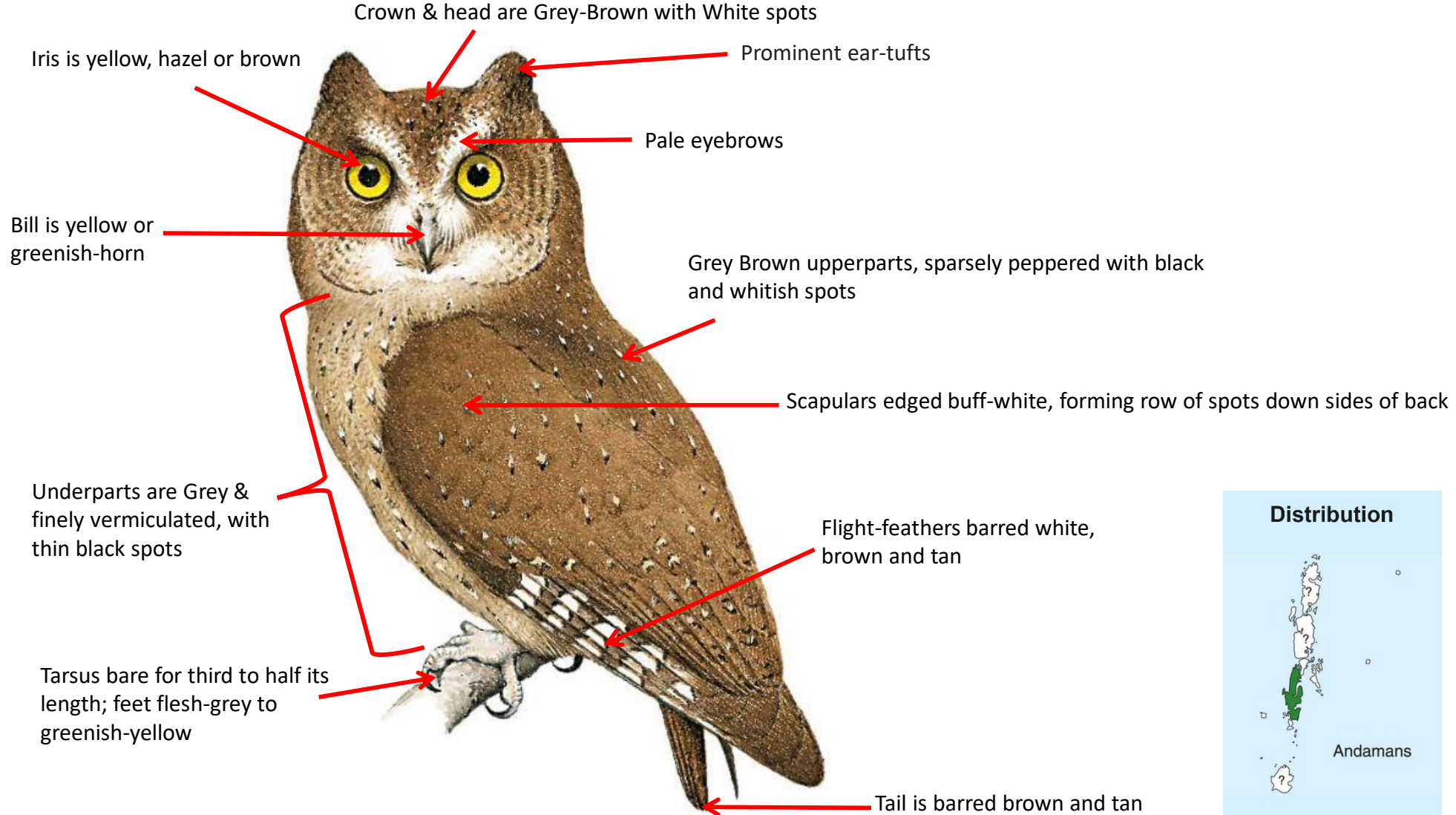
- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Scops Owl found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/owl/>
- If you are interested in coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail me at [ogaclicks@gmail.com](mailto:ogaclicks@gmail.com)
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- You can also call me on (91)9840119078 ,  
(91) 9445219078  
(91) 6369815812

# List of Scops Owl found in India

Sno.	Name	Binomial Name
1	Andaman Scops Owl	<i>Otus balli</i>
2	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus lettia</i>
3	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>
4	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
5	Mountain Scops Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>
6	Nicobar Scops Owl	<i>Otus alius</i>
7	Oriental Scops Owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>
8	Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>
9	Walden's Scops owl	<i>Otus modestus</i>

# Andaman Scops Owl identification Tips

**Andaman Scops Owl: *Otus balli*:** Resident of Andaman Islands in India



## Distribution



Both the sexes similar

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)

# Collared Scops Owl identification Tips

**Collared Scops Owl : *Otus Lettie* :** Resident of Himalayas & North East India

Crown & head are Grey-Brown

Iris is dark brown to orange-brown

Bill is greenish-horn, darker at tip ; lower mandible pale dusky yellow

Prominent Buff ear-tufts

Buff eyebrows

Pale collar on back of neck

Facial disc greyish to light rufous

Grey-brown or rufous-brown upperparts , dark-mottled and with few whitish spots

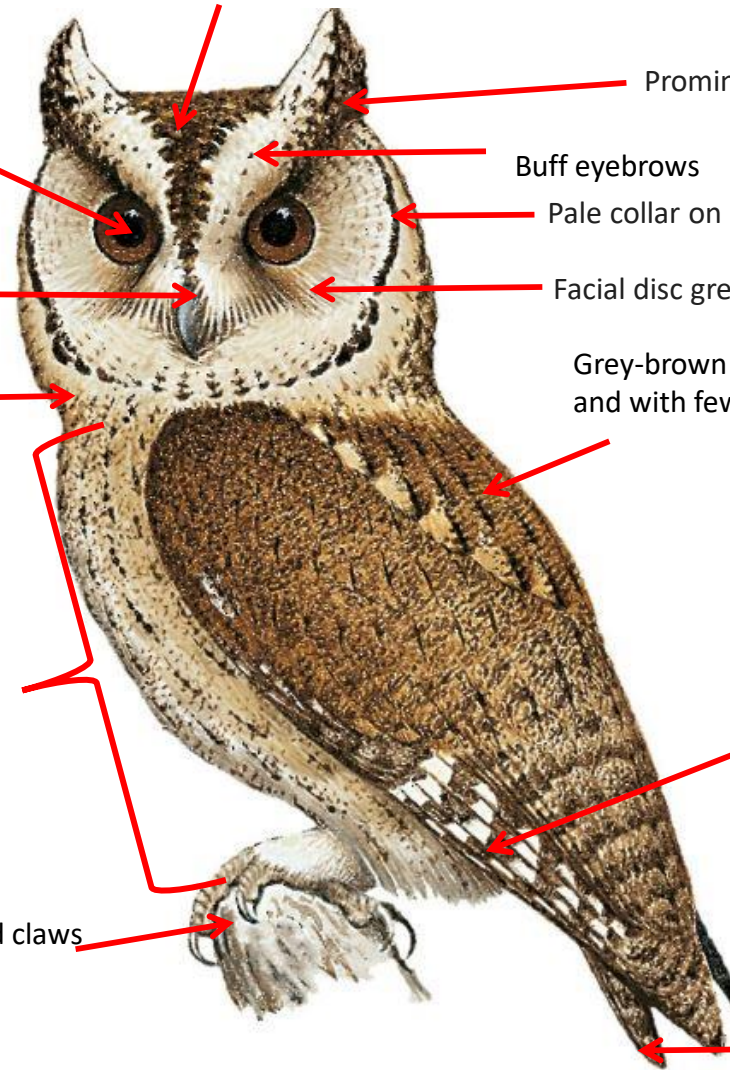
Chin and throat pale, barred or mottled with black

Underparts are pale greyish-buff or rufous with black streaks

Flight-feathers barred white, brown and tan

Tarsus feathered, toes and claws fleshy-grey to dusky-olive

Tail is barred brown and tan



## Distribution



Both the sexes similar

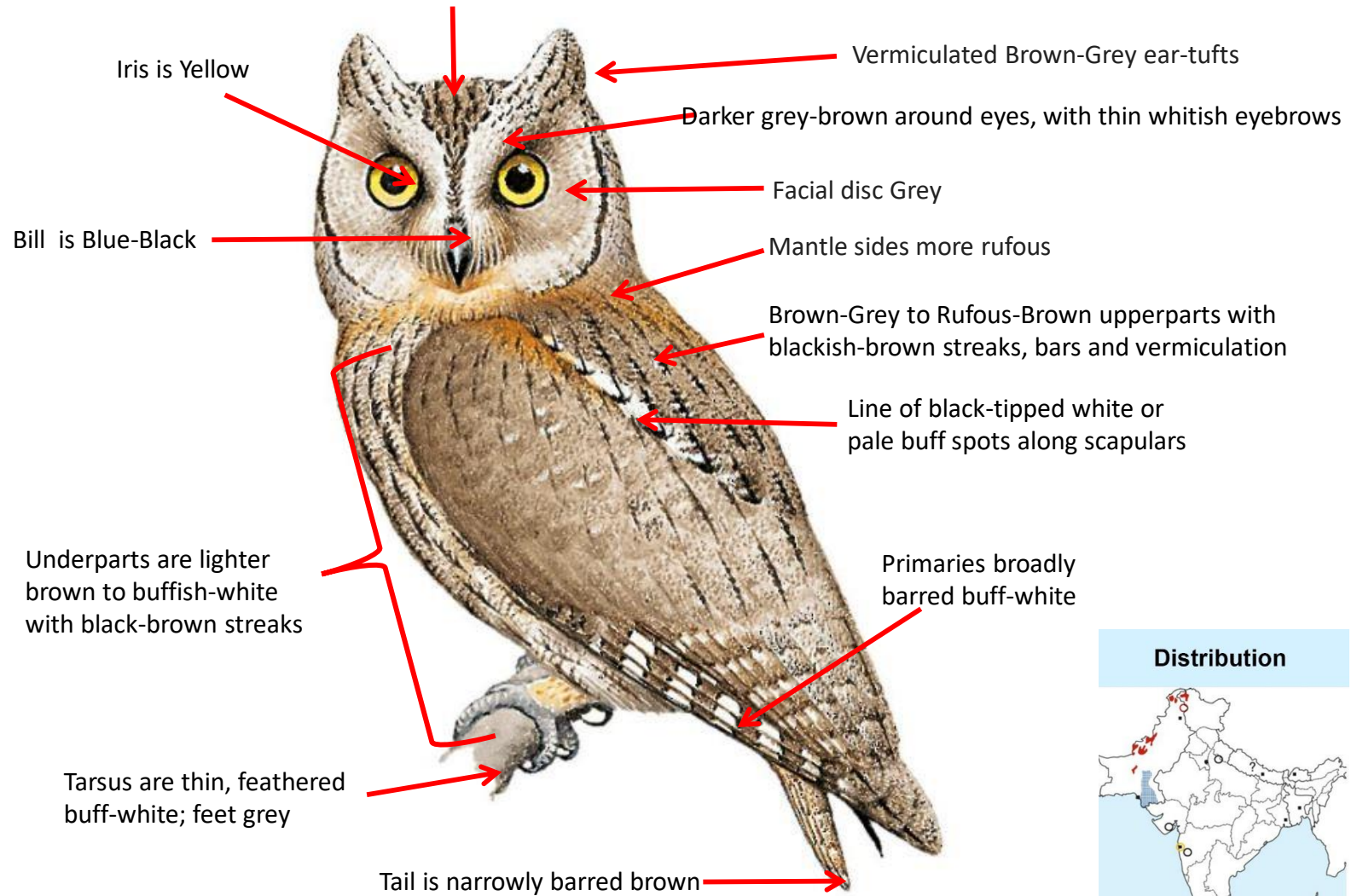
Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)

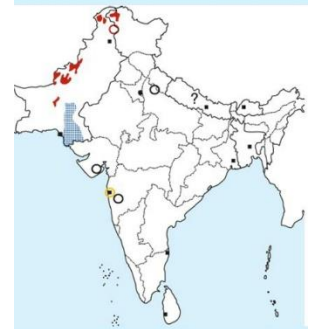
## Eurasian Scops Owl identification Tips

Eurasian Scops Owl : *Otus scops* : Winter visitor to North West India

Crown & head are Brown-Grey to Rufous-Brown with blackish-brown streaks, bars and vermiculation



### Distribution



Both the sexes similar

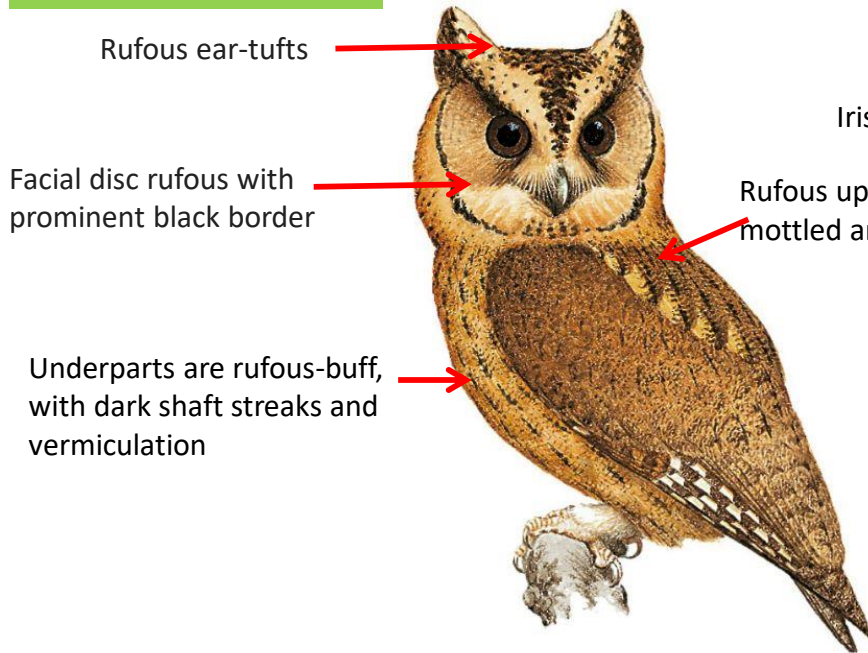
Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)

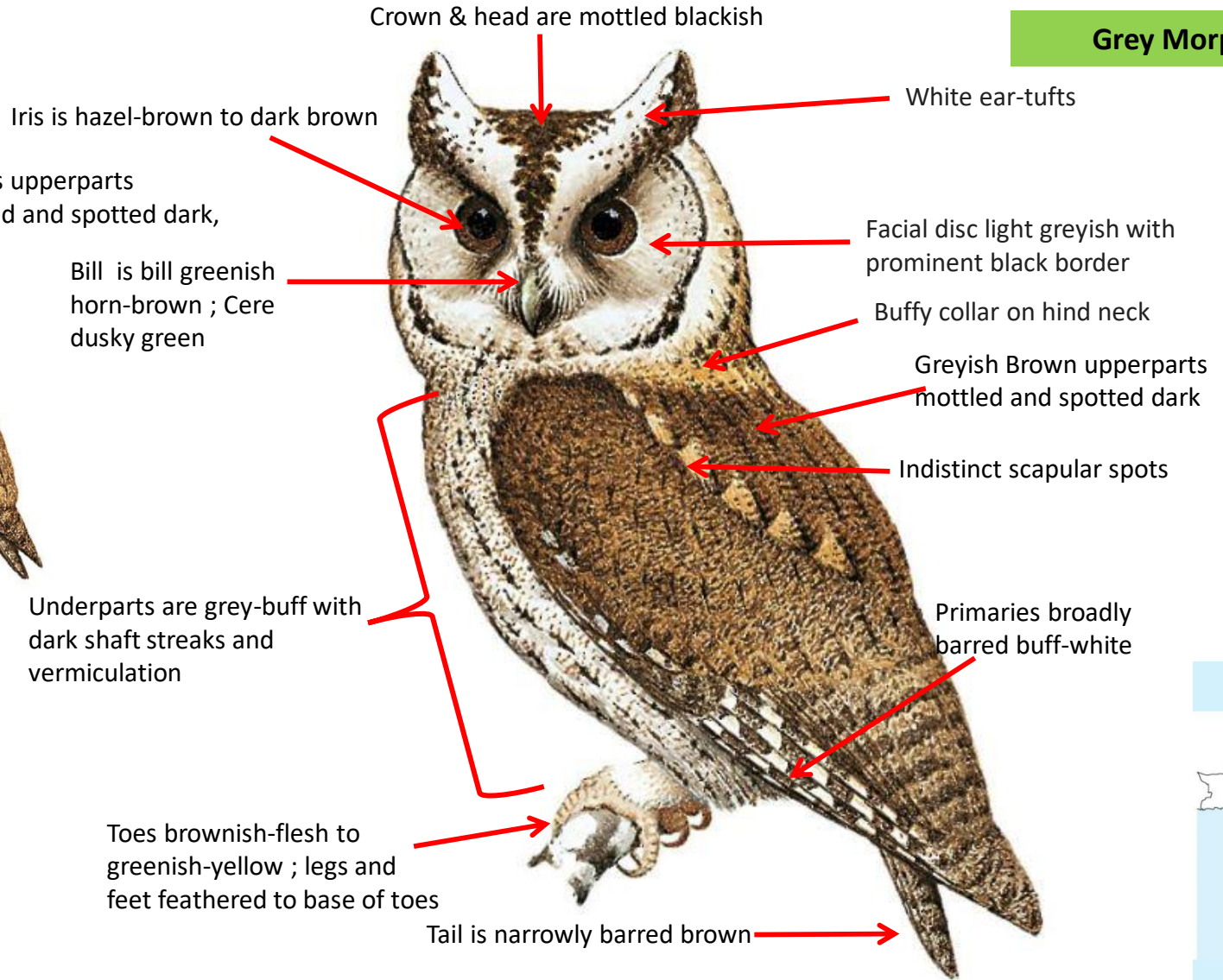
# Indian Scops Owl identification Tips

Indian Scops Owl : *Otus bakkamoena* : Widespread resident South of Himalayas in India

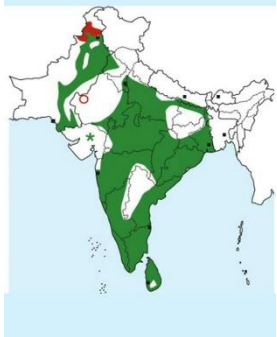
## Rufous Morph



## Grey Morph



## Distribution



Both the sexes similar

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)



## Mountain Scops Owl identification Tips

### Mountain Scops Owl : *Otus spilocephalus* : Resident of Himalayas & North East India

Crown & head are Rufous-Brown with black spots

Iris is golden-yellow or greenish-yellow

Black spotted ear-tufts

Facial disc light rufous with light brown bars

Bill is whitish to pale horn

Scapulars with black tipped silver-white spots

Rufous-Brown upperparts with dark streaks, bars and vermiculation

Primaries broadly barred buff-white

Underparts are finely vermiculated rufous and buff, with paired small black and white spots

Tarsus are thin, feathered buff-white; feet grey

Tail is narrowly barred brown

*O. s. huttoni* - Resident of Himalayan foothills

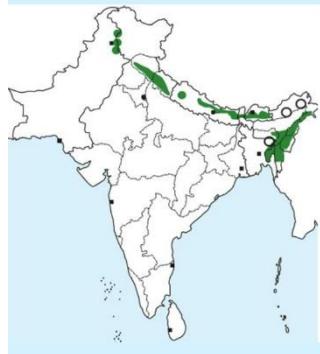
Grey head & crown with Black spots

Facial disc whitish light brown bars

Grey upperparts with dark streaks, bars and vermiculation

Underparts are whitish with black spots

#### Distribution



Both the sexes similar

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)

# Nicobar Scops Owl identification Tips

Nicobar Scops Owl: *Otus alius*: Resident of Nicobar Islands in India

Crown & head are Rufous-Brown with blackish-brown streaks, bars and vermiculation

Iris is Yellow

Mid-length ear-tufts finely barred

Facial disc paler, lightly barred at lower edge, with indistinct outer border

Bill is Brownish

Rufous-Brown upperparts with distinctly barred all over, unstreaked

Rounded white scapular spots tipped black

Underparts are lighter brown to buffish-white with black-brown streaks

Primaries broadly barred buff-white

Lowermost part of tarsus, and much of its rear edge, unfeathered ; Toes are grey

Tail is narrowly barred brown

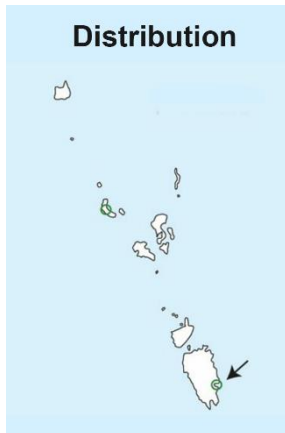
Both the sexes similar

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)



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# Oriental Scops Owl identification Tips

**Oriental Scops Owl: *Otus sunia*:** Resident of Himalayas to North East India

Crown & head are Rufous-Brown with black spots

Iris is golden-yellow or greenish-yellow

Black spotted ear-tufts

Facial disc brown-grey with black border

Bill is grey

Scapulars with black tipped silver-white spots

Rufous-Brown upperparts with dark streaks, bars and vermiculation

Underparts are finely vermiculated rufous and buff, with paired small black and white spots

Primaries broadly barred buff-white

Tarsus are thin, feathered buff-white; feet grey

Tail is narrowly barred brown

Both the sexes similar

Difference from Nominate

Important id point



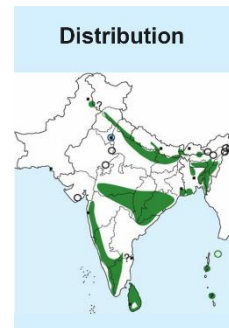
***O. s. nicobaricus* – Resident of Central Nicobar**

Facial disc is completely rufous

Underparts are Complete rufous



Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent  
Inskipp and Grimmett  
[www.HBW.com](http://www.HBW.com)



Distribution

Rufous upperparts with dark streaks, bars and vermiculation

Facial disc is rufous light brown bars

Rufous head & crown with Black spots

Underparts are whitish with rufous wash with black spots

***O. s. rufipennis* – Resident of South India**

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## Pallid Scops Owl identification Tips

**Pallid Scops Owl : *Otus brucei*** : Winter Visitors to West & North West India



Crown & head are Light greyish-brown with yellowish tinge, with sparse and fine black streaks

Iris is Yellow

Bill is greyish-horn, yellowish at base of lower mandible

Mid-length ear-tufts finely barred

Short whitish eyebrows

Facial disc pale buffish-white, with thin dark border

Light greyish-brown upperparts with yellowish tinge, with sparse and fine black streaks

Scapulars with blackish-edged white feathers

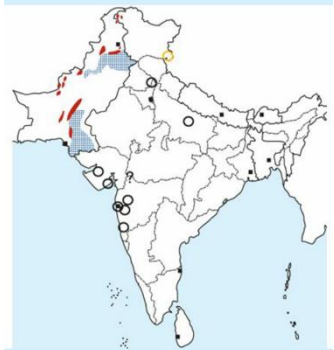
Underparts are paler and more heavily streaked with black

Primaries thinly barred

Fully feathered to base of toes; toes greyish-brown; claws blackish-brown

Tail is narrowly barred brown

### Distribution



**Both the sexes similar**

**Important id point**

Reference : **Birds of Indian Subcontinent**  
**Inskipp and Grimmett**  
**www.HBW.com**

## Walden's Scops Owl identification Tips

Walden's Scops Owl : *Otus modestus* : Resident of Andaman Islands in India

Crown & head are Grey-Brown with blackish-brown streaks, bars and vermiculation

