There are roughly 250 species of owls worldwide, and about 36 found in India. According to India’s Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 almost all the species are protected from hunting, trade or any other form of utilisation. Despite this, every year, thousands of owls are poached in India for black magic rituals and sacrifices. Below are 16 such species of owls most impacted by the illegal wildlife trade. If you see owls in the illicit wildlife trade, report to your local authorities.

Original Illustrations by Richa Kedia
Reference Pictures: Prasad Sonawane, Pixabay and A Field Guide to the Birds of Indian Subcontinent by Krya Kazmierczak

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