**A Bird That Does Not Migrate**

**Introduction**

**Migration:** is defined as the traveling from one region to another by animals. Depending on when an animal migrates depends on what they use. If they migrate during the day they will track the movement of the sun while if they migrate at night they will track the position of the stars. Many species of animals migrate including birds, fish, insects, mammals, and reptiles. The reason for migration is commonly due to weather conditions which then cause a scarce amount of food sources and harsh environments. When conditions get too harsh food sources can migrate themselves, or go underground. The most common owl in the world is the Barn Owl (*Tyto albus).* These birds can be found all over the world with different sizes and feather patterns. The Barn Owls in Europe and North America are the most in common. Even though these birds can be found everywhere they do not usually migrate.

**Eating Habits**

Barn owls have poor insulation, their feathers are very hollow and they do not carry a lot of fat. Due to this the hard winters can be deadly. One of their survival mechanisms during the winter is to conserve energy. They will hunt by sitting on a fence or similar surface and wait on their pray instead of flying around and looking. Hunting during the winter can be very difficult because Barn Owls feed on small rodents. These small rodents become less active when it is cold which makes them hard to find during the winter. In areas with snow cover these birds have been known to feed off of smaller birds if the rodents cannot be found due to going underground. Food supply is directly correlated with the size of the bird. (Lewis 210). Barn Owls that are in Europe and North America will eat similar animals. This is special to Barn Owls. Most birds when separated by great distances will have different eating habits along with hunting, mating, and living styles. Barn owls will have similar habits no matter where they are.

**Migration**

Most of these owls do not migrate which is special to this bird. Most of the studies of Barn Owl migration were done in Europe and Northern America. In both of these regions not a lot of evidence supporting migration was found. Most of these birds will stay in their habitat during the winter which is not common for birds. The only real documentation of migration of these owls was in the Great Plains region and similar areas in Northern America. There was not a clear reason for this migration but it was consistently between late September to the middle of November. During this migration process the owls would fly at altitudes lass than 10 meters (Powell, 2015).

**Juvenile Barn Owls**

Barn Owls are not known to be migratory as adults the most consistent type of migration among these birds are in juvenile birds. **Juvenile** birds are birds that are not fully grown. Juvenile Barn Owls will always leave the nest around the same time. When Barn Owls leave the nest at about 60 days old they will travel to make their own territory away from their mothers. They can travel up to 1600km away from their nests. Some scientists do not think of this as migration because it is a part of their natural aging process and it is not seasonal. These birds will make their nests very different from other birds. They will make their nests on top of structures like cliffs, barns, caves, and houses. They will reuse nests year to year either their own or nests from other owls. They will make their nest out of regurgitated pellets that they will tear up with their feet. These pellets will cushion they nest for they eggs. They will find other things around that is soft and will provide cushion while most other birds will gather. sticks. Female will typically lay around 5 eggs at a time. They can lay between 2 and 11 eggs. They will sit on the eggs and incubate them for 29-34 days. These birds have a life expectancy of 2-3 years. Which is interesting because they are the most common bird. The only time these birds get territorial is when they are about to nest, are nesting, or there is a little amount of food available.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status of these birds depends on their location. Since these birds do not migrate this does not affect the decline or addition to the population which makes it easier to measure. The western population has a special concern status. Due to this status they are protected under different acts. These acts include the federal *Species at Risk Act* and the British Columbia Wildlife Act. These acts do not allow killing, harming, collection of eggs or adults, and destroying nesting sites. In the western population they have decreased over the last 50 years. This decrease is due to urbanization, pesticides, and changes in grasslands and fields. Urbanization is causing these birds to lose their habitat and prey. Pesticides and chemicals that are in the environment will directly will directly affect the bird. These chemicals can cause death and reproductive issues. Many people use poisons to kill rodents, since rodents are a primary food source to the owl they will eat the poisoned rodent and then poison themselves. Many efforts are being made in order to help keep habitats clean and habitable for the owls. One of the efforts that was helpful was clearing of the forests in Northern America. It created a new habitat that was not there before. It allowed the habitat to open up and gave safe nesting sites. Another process that helps conserve these birds is to have landowners change their land by adding nest boxes. **Nest boxes** are man-made boxes like a bird house that are a safe place for large birds to nest when their habitat is not safe or has been destroyed. The birds very quickly responded to these boxes. The nest boxes have proven to have a positive correlation to the population. An effort that did not work was people breeding the owls then releasing them into the environment. This was supposed to increase the population but it did not work. This did not help the birds quickly died after being released back into the wild. (Norman, 2007).

**Conclusion**

Migration is a natural part of many animals lives. They do this in order to live in areas that have their preferred weather environment. When the weather changes they move to somewhere that has their preferred weather conditions. Some animals have been able to adapt to their environment even when the weather changes. They do this by changing their eating and living habits. Barn Owls will eat small birds rather than rodents when the weather gets cold and the rodents go underground. They will also not fly around looking for food, rather they will perch on a post or roof and wait on their prey to come to them. The only form of migration which some scientist do not even consider migration is when the young leaves the nest and travels to their own site.

Citation Page

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