

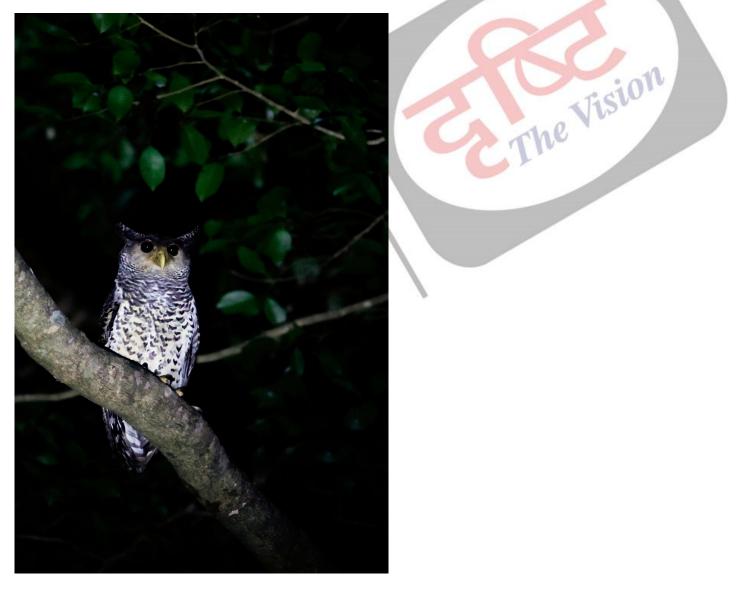
Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

Why in News?

Recently, **Spot Bellied Eagle Owl (***Bubo Nipalensis***)** was spotted for the first time in <u>Seshachalam</u> <u>forest</u>, and for the third time in **Andhra Pradesh**.

It was sighted twice earlier at <u>Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve(NSTR)</u>.

What is a Spot-bellied Eagle Owl?



- About:
 - The **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl**, also known as the **Forest eagle-owl** is a large owl species typically found in wooded areas, such as **forests and rocky hillsides**, and are known for

their distinctive spots on their belly.

- The spot-bellied eagle-owls are large, very powerful and bold predatory birds.
- The bird makes a strange scream similar to humans and it is hence called the 'Ghost of the Forest' in India.
- Distribution:
 - These eagle-owl species are distributed in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan,
 - Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Prey:
 - They are known to prey on large birds and also on mammals like golden jackals, hares, civets and chevrotains.
- IUCN and CITES Status:
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list: "Least Concern".
 - CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) : Appendix II.

Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve

- The Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Sanctuary was declared officially in 1978 and has been recognized by the Project Tiger in 1983.
- Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India.
- In 1992, it was retitled as Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Tiger reserve is spread over 5 districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The area consists mostly of the Nallamala Hills.
- The multipurpose reservoirs- Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar are located in the reserve. The Vision
- The Krishna River cuts the basin of this reserve.

Source: TH

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/spot-bellied-eagle-owl