

LITTLE OWL

Athene Noctua

Length: 21-24cm
Wingspan: 53-59cm
Weight: 105-260g

Description: This small stock owl has greyish brown upper parts and short tail mottled with white flecks/spots and paler underparts with dark streaks. It has a flattish head with piercing green/yellow eyes set below white eyebrows and an indistinct facial disk.

Female can be up to a third larger than the male.

Habitat: Farmland pasture, gardens, orchards, and park type areas. However, this characterful little bird has been very badly hit by loss of habitat and use of pesticides.

Food: Insects, worms, beetles (one of their favourites being the dung beetle sadly killed by the use of animal wormers), birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Call: The Little Owl has around 24 different calls however, the two main ones are the male song which is a slightly nasal "gwooihk" becoming catlike with excitement and a warning call which is a high pitched "yap, yap, yap" becoming more staccato and strident.