

## LONG EARED OWL

Asio Otus

**Length:** 35-40cm  
**Wingspan:** 90-100cm  
**Weight:** 200-435g

**Description:** Ochre/buff upperparts with greyish wash mottled with dark brown or black; paler underparts streaked with black, light underwing with dark stripe. Orange eyes set in a large greyish facial disk with a dark edge, distinctive ear tufts and white highlights around the beak.

The female is up to a third larger than the male and can be darker in colouring.

**Habitat:** Edges of coniferous and mixed woodlands, and forests with access to open countryside.

**Food:** A small mammal specialist i.e. mice and voles but will also take birds, frogs, bats, lizards etc. usually hunting on the wing along hedgerows and woodland/forest edges but will also hunt from a fence post perch.

**Call:** The adult Long Eared owl is generally only heard during the breeding season with the male giving a deep "whooh" and the female a weak, rasping mew. The young can be heard from hatching through to fledging and sound like a high-pitched squeaky gate.