

TAWNY OWL

Strix Aluco

Length: 36-40cm
Wingspan: 70-85cm
Weight: 325-720g

Description: There are 3 colour variations of the Tawny Owl being brown, grey and rufus. The most common in the UK is the brown phase which is dark brown with paler barred upper and paler streaked under parts. It has a large, round head with a round facial disk and large dark eyes.

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

Habitat: Deciduous and mixed woodland and coppices, also parks, gardens, and grounds with mature trees. These Owls have been pushed into built up areas by loss of habitat due to deforestation, house building etc and are more regularly heard in our villages, towns and cities, where habitat needs to be enhanced to prevent their population from continuing its downward trend.

Food: They eat a varied diet from earthworms and slugs to rodents, rabbits, birds, reptiles, amphibians and have also been known to help themselves to a fish supper after a bath in a pond. They tend to be perch and pounce hunters with a strong nocturnal tendency.

Call: The Tawnies are the "Twit-Two" owl – this call being made up by two owls calling to each other. The calls are a distinctive hoooo *ho hoooooo* this is generally the male and it is a low slow call; the other is kewick and is generally the female and it is a higher pitched staccato call.

Tawnies also have a fast high pitched alarm call and have a close quarter purring call.