



Tawny Owl

(Strix aluco)

The Tawny Owl is the most common owl found in England. It is chestnut brown with white underparts, streaked on all surfaces with dark brown. Its semicircular facial disc is lightly colored, with buff and white markings. There are two distinct color phases found in Britain, brown and grey.

Habitat & Diet

The Tawny Owl's diet consists mostly of small mammals. It has also been known to eat a large number of insects, and will occasionally take birds and frogs. It is especially fond of worms. This owl hunts from a perch in woodland areas. It waits inconspicuously for prey to appear, and discloses its location only when diving to catch its prey.

Fascinating Facts

The Tawny Owl has been described as the most musical of all European owls. It is the only British owl that actually makes a hooting sound. This owl's sense of hearing is very well developed-the second best of any owl in the world. The wise old owl in many of the Winnie the Pooh stories was modeled after a Tawny Owl. A very popular member of the owl family, this species, with its distinguishing hoot, makes an appearance throughout much British children's literature including Harry Potter.

Status

Throughout the 19th century, the Tawny Owl, like many other raptors, was hunted and trapped by the thousands. It suffered as well from the removal of large wooded areas for the creation of farmland. Currently this woodland bird has adapted to man-made environments and are now commonplace in parks and gardens.



Height: 14-16 inches
Weight: Up to 1 pound
Wingspan: 36-42 inches
Habitat: Mostly: woodlands;
Recently: parks, occasional cities
Range: Scandinavia, Britain, Western China,
North Africa
Life Expectancy: Up to 27 years
Baby: Owlet
Group: Parliament



Exhibited with permission of USF&W

*Sign Donated by:
Your Name Here \$250*