

# SHORTEAREDOWL

asioflammeus

## FactFile

Length: 37cm –39cm

Wingspan: 95cm –100cm

Weight: 0.26kg –0.42kg

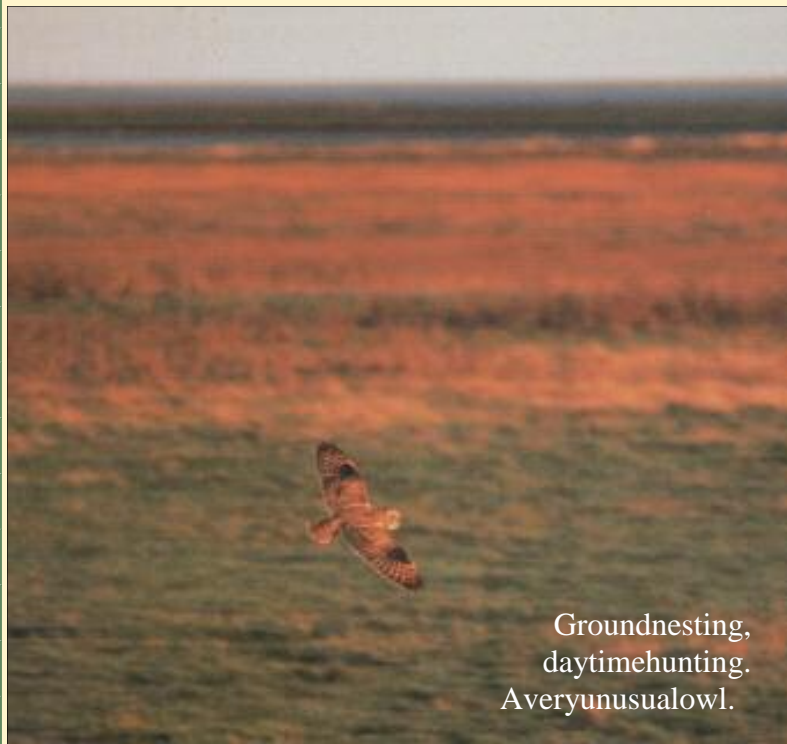
Habitat: A bird of heath, moor, marsh and sand dunes they are ground-nesting birds which, unlike other owls, build their own nests. After a spectacular courtship flight, a large clutch of up to 8 eggs is laid. Incubation can take up to 29 days per egg with the eggs hatching over a period of several days. Fledging occurs at 27 days and the young are fully independent at 60 days.



Short-Eared Owls are unusual in their preference for hunting in daylight over open country. However, the wild population is extremely mobile and this - combined with its migratory habits - makes an estimation of its numbers very difficult. The Winter Atlas of 1986 put the midwinter population at anything between 5,000 and 50,000.

Despite being a specialist feeder on small mammals (especially voles), the Short-Eared Owl is very adaptable and will feed on a wide variety of other species during temporary slumps in the vole population. Its normal hunting method consists of quartering the ground at a height of less than 3 metres, alternating between flapping its wings, gliding and occasionally hovering whilst searching for its prey.

Short-Eared Owls have a wingspan of 1 metre but weigh less than half a kilo. The ears from which it gets its name are just small tufts of feathers which are raised when the bird is alarmed.



Ground nesting,  
daytime hunting.  
A very unusual owl.