

TAWNY OWL

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FactFile

Length: 37cm –39cm

Wingspan: 94cm –104cm

Weight: 0.3kg –0.58kg

Habitat: Deciduous and mixed woodland but will live in farmland, parks and even large gardens provided there are trees and prey. Tawny Owls usually nest in hollow trees, rearing between 2 and 4 young. The first eggs are laid towards the end of March and hatch about a month later. The young leave the nest when about 25 – 30 days old but don't fledge until about 5 weeks.



Often heard, rarely seen. The Tawny Owl is our commonest owl.



The Tawny Owl (also called the Hoot and Brown Owl) is Britain's most numerous owl. This is largely due to its nocturnal habits which have given it some protection from persecution. Also its size, physical dominance, varied diet and ability to adapt to and exploit new habitats such as urban parkland and even large gardens, have enabled it to sustain large numbers.

The Tawny has also been relatively unaffected by pesticide poisoning, indeed the only major problem it has experienced is the loss of some nest sites following the spread of Dutch Elm disease and several years of severe winter gales.

The Tawny is Britain's largest breeding owl. It has a very varied diet including rodents, birds taken from night roosts and invertebrates. Some have been known to take fish, frogs and other amphibians by wading in the shallows.