

Spotted Eagle-owl

Bubo africanus

Smallest of the Eagle-owl species, the Spotted Eagle-owl is the most common owl species seen in a wide variety of habitats in Southern Africa except for desert areas and dense forest.

The calls are generally typical, musical eagle-owl hoots. Generally the male call with two hoots: "Hooo hooopoooo" and the female answers with three. Like most birds of prey, they are harassed by smaller birds when spotted – particularly during the day. Spotted eagle-owls are regular bathers and during summer thunderstorms may be seen on tree limbs or on the ground with spread wings.

Spotted eagle-owls mate for life and are able to breed at around one year of age. They usually make their nest on the ground but have been known to nest on window ledges of buildings. Breeding begins in July continuing to the first weeks of February. The female does the incubation, leaving the nest only to eat what the male has brought for food. The young owls can fly at around seven weeks of age.



Lifespan: 25 Years
Weight: 480 - 850 g (Females larger than males)
Size: 40 - 50 cm (Varies in Regions)
Breeding Season: Varies according to area
Incubation Period: 30 - 32 Days
Number of Chicks: 2 - 4
Diet: Mostly Small Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Frogs.
Problems They Face: Poisoning, being hit by cars, traditional beliefs.
Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. II