

Southern White-faced Owl

Ptilopsis granti



It is hard to resist the cuteness factor of White-faced Owls. Whilst not the most common of the owls, they are often seen in savannah and woodland regions in South Africa.

The Southern White-faced Owl is nocturnal and typically silent during the day. They will only be seen flying during the day if disturbed. They often breed in old stick nests of other birds with the male doing most of the hunting until the chicks are old enough to be left alone and then the female will join him. The young leave the nest at around 30 days of age but still rely on the parents for another few weeks before hunting for themselves.

Both these owls were donated to us by Raptor Rescue. The female is blind in one eye and the male was found by a member of the public and hand-raised so neither can be released to the wild. They breed well in captivity and we are hoping that this pair will breed in the next couple of years.



Lifespan: 25 Years
Weight: 150 – 250 g
Size: 20 cm
Breeding Season: Varies according to food availability.
Incubation Period: 29 - 30 Days
Number of Chicks: 2 - 3
Diet: Mostly Small Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Insects.
Problems They Face: Poisoning particularly in urban areas.
Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. II