

# Wood Owl

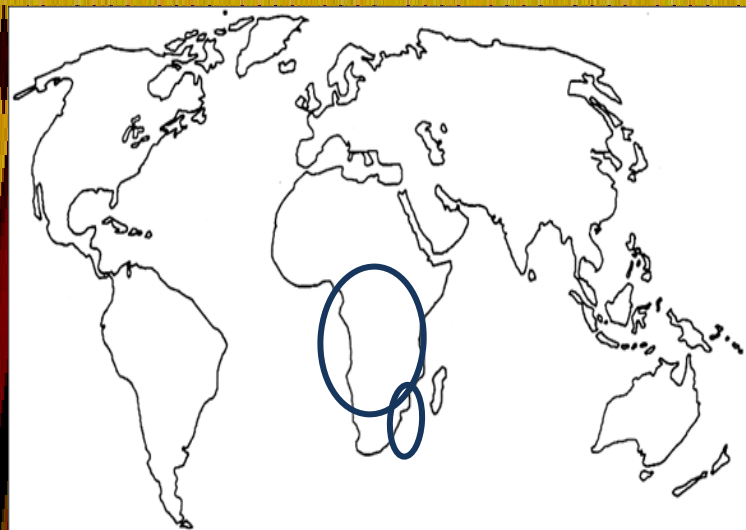
*Strix woodfordii*



Widespread across sub-saharan Africa, wood owls are found in woodland and forest areas. They are the commonest forest and woodland owl throughout their range.

Commonly found roosting deep within a tangle of creepers, 1-30m above the ground. They emerge after dark to hunt their prey and will either swoop down to the ground to catch it, from trees or even in flight. They are highly territorial and live as pairs with an established territory. The nest is mostly in tree holes and rarely on the ground among tree roots.

In flight they are silent both in call and wingbeats but if flushed from a tree they fly with deep, soft beats of their long wings and appear large-headed and long-tailed. The pair will often call to each other when roosting with the pair replying to each other's call with each sex calling at a different pitch – the male low and the female higher.



**Lifespan:** 25 Years

**Weight:** 240 – 350 g

**Size:** 25 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