

AFRICAN SPOTTED

EAGLE OWL

(BUBO AFRICANUS)

WE ARE BIRDS

with a lifespan of up to 10 years in the wild, up to 20 years in captivity

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN*



Origin: South Africa.

Diet: Small mammals, birds, bats, insects, amphibians and reptiles. They are omnivores.

Predators: Verreaux's Eagle Owls.

Habitat: Rocky desert outcrops, woodland and savannah.

*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 19.04.19



Height

40-45cm



Weight

480-850g

DID YOU KNOW?

The African Spotted Eagle Owl is one of the smallest of the Eagle Owl family.

They use their feet to catch their prey. Each toe is very strong with a long sharp talon (claw).

GET UP CLOSE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE AMAZING BIRDS BY BOOKING AN OWL EXPERIENCE!

ADAPTATIONS

Their wings are finely serrated allowing them to fly silently to catch their prey. Their long-distance vision is excellent making them great for hunting, however their short-distance vision is poor. They have a group of sensitive feathers around their beaks called crines. Due to their poor close range vision, these are used to help locate dead prey. They have 14 vertebrae in their neck, compared to our 7. This allows for them to turn their head 270 degrees horizontally and 90 degrees vertically. They have very sensitive hearing to aid the hunting of prey. Their ears are small holes hidden under their feathers.

REPRODUCTION

They are monogamous, meaning they pair for life. They will often return to the same nesting spot year after year. They usually breed from July to February. The female will lay 2-3 eggs which she will incubate for around 1 month. The male will bring food back to the nest during this time. Once the eggs have hatched, the parents will feed the young for around 30-38 days. They then learn to fly but will stay in the care of their parents for a further 5 months. By the age of 1 year they will be ready to breed.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE OWLS