

# SOUTHERN WHITE FACED OWL

(PTILOPSIS GRANTI)

**WE ARE  
BIRDS**  
with a lifespan of  
30 years in captivity



**CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN\***



**Origin:** South Africa.  
**Diet:** Large insects, small birds, reptiles and mammals.  
**Predators:** Larger owls.  
**Habitat:** Savannah, open woodland.

\*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 10.05.19



Height

**22-24cm**



Weight

**KG 185-275g**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Southern White Faced Owl was formally known as the White Faced Scops Owl.

The female is larger than the male.

They are nocturnal birds and spend the day roosting in the canopies of trees.

They hunt from a perch, swooping down to just above ground level and taking the prey with their talons and then swooping back up to a new perch.

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

## ADAPTATIONS

The disks around their faces act as satellite dishes to amplify and channel sounds directly to their ears. When they feel threatened they either puff out their feathers and sway from side to side to make them look more intimidating or they stretch out as tall as possible with their eyes half closed to pretend to be a tree stump. Because of this they are often known as 'transforming owls'.

## REPRODUCTION

At the start of the breeding season, the male will sing intensively. This is mostly heard at dusk. During courtship the male and female will duet. Females usually lay 2-3 eggs between May and November in holes in trees or the old nest of another bird. The female will incubate the eggs for around 30 days before they hatch whilst the male hunts and provides the food. Both parents take care of the hatchlings. By 33 days old the chicks will learn to fly and usually leave the nest two weeks after that.

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE OWLS**