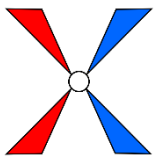


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| bncdoc.id | GUA |
| bncdoc.author | Heinzel, H |
| bncdoc.year | 1972 |
| bncdoc.title | Birds of Britain and Europe. |
| bncdoc.info | Birds of Britain and Europe. Sample containing about 38686 words from a book (domain: leisure) |
| Text availability | Worldwide rights cleared |
| Publication date | 1960-1974 |
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| David Lee's classification | W_misc |

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| <p><171/c></p>  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p> | <p>the most familiar of the six smaller owls of the region, short tail and conspicuously bounding flight. Cf. Tengmalm's Owl (above). Call a loud ringing 'kiew, kiew', habitually uttered by day; song remarkably like opening sequence of Curlew's (p. 139) song. Juvenile has a shrill persistent wheeze. Often perches on posts and other prominent lookouts; bobs, waggles head, and may turn it through 180 when curious or suspicious. Often flies by night, and hovers for insects in dusk. Farmland and open country with scattered trees, open woodland, orchards, palm groves, dunes, semi-deserts, also marine islands and other treeless but rocky places. 8½in. (22 cm.). R Map 141 TAWNY OWL Strix aluco. Generally the commonest medium-sized brown owl; predominantly nocturnal and most often detected in daytime hunched up in its tree roost, being mobbed by smaller birds, when can be distinguished from Barn Owl by dark brown face and underparts and from Long-eared and Short-eared Owls (p. 179) by black eyes and lack of ear-tufts. When seen by day, it appears shorter-winged than these three, and larger and stouter in build than Barn and Long-eared. Very variable in ground colour, from rich chestnut tawny through various shades of buff, brown and grey-brown to greyish-white; juvenile barred. Most familiar note is long quavering hoot, but equally often heard, especially from young birds in late summer and autumn, is a sharp 'ke-wick' (These two notes are origin of traditional 'tu-whit, tu-whoo'). Juveniles in or just out of nest may make a sound remarkably like a gate on an uncoiled hinge. Open, mainly deciduous, woodland, parkland, large gardens and other areas with scattered trees, not uncommon in villages, towns and some cities. Nest usually in tree holes. Feeds mainly on small birds and rodents. 15 in. (38 cm.). R Map 142 HUME'S TAWNY OWL Strix butleri. One of the least known owls in the world, very rarely reliably observed in the field; upperparts buff with grever wings and distinct golden collar; Tawny Owl can be so pale that unfeathered toes of Hume's are only really good distinction; perhaps black-tipped crown feathers would show a darker crown in the field. Flight direct but laboured. Song a clear drawn-out 'huu', also a more quavering hoot. Among rocks and in palm groves near rocks. In our region only known from four or five localities. 15 in. (38 cm.). GREAT GREY OWL Strix nebulosa. One of the giant owls of the region, about the size of an Eagle Owl (p. 177), but with longer tail, rounder head and no ear tufts, smaller yellow eyes set in a facial disc with concentric dark rings, and a black patch on the chin. Cf. Ural Owl. Song and calls both resemble Tawny Owl, but hoot much deeper. Coniferous forests, often hunting by day for mammals as large as squirrels and lemmings. Nest usually in old nest of other bird. 27 in. (69 cm.). URAL OWL Strix uralensis. Only a little smaller than Great Grey Owl, from which it differs</p> |
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| | <p>chiefly in <u>dark eyes</u>, <u>unlined facial disc</u>, and <u>no black patch on chin</u>. From <u>paler forms</u> of much smaller <u>Tawny Owl</u>, differs also in <u>its long tail, which hangs down in flight</u>, and <u>relatively smaller eyes</u>. <u>Hoot more muffled</u> than <u>Tawny's</u>, also <u>a barking 'khau, khau'</u> and a harsher version of <u>Tawny's 'ke-wick'</u>. Forests, coniferous, deciduous and mixed, sometimes in villages and large cities, often hunting by day for mammals up to the size of a red squirrel and birds up to the size of a <u>Hazelhen</u>. <u>24 in. (61 cm.)</u>. <u>NIGHTJARS</u>: Caprimulgidae. <u>Exclusively nocturnal birds</u>, well adapted by their <u>long wings and tail</u>, <u>large eyes and gape</u>, and <u>small bill and feet</u>, to catch moths, beetles and other flying insect prey by night: seen by day only when flushed from the ground or perched on a branch (normally horizontally along it), being well camouflaged by their <u>mottled brown plumage</u>. Sexes more or less alike. Flight <u>silent</u>, and <u>very agile</u>, gliding and wheeling, with sudden darts after prey. Southern species often sit in dirt roads or sandy tracks and appear in car headlights. Eggs laid on bare ground. <u>NIGHTJAR</u> <u>Caprimulgus europaeus</u>. The only widespread <u>nightjar</u> of the region, most often detected by its song, <u>a far-carrying churr</u>, sustained but with occasional abrupt changes of pitch, not usually heard till 45-60 minutes after sunset. When flushed, appears a long-winged, long-tailed, hawk-like bird, readily told from all birds of prey by its very short, straight bill, and from juvenile Cuckoo (p. 175) by unbarred underparts and no white patch on nape. Male has <u>white tips</u> to outer tail feathers and <u>three white spots</u> on outer wing quills. Call <u>a soft but insistent 'cu-ic'</u>, also makes <u>a whip-crack sound</u> by clapping wings together. Open woodlands, forest edges, patches of felled woodland, heaths, low moors, open country with scattered trees, semi-deserts. <u>10 ½ in. (27 cm.)</u>. Sm Map 143 <u>RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR</u> <u>Caprimulgus ruficollis</u>. Larger</p> |
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