

**GENERAL ZOOLOGY,**  
*or*  
**SYSTEMATIC NATURAL HISTORY**

*by*  
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**WITH PLATES**

from the first Authorities and most select specimens

*Engraved principally by*

**M<sup>RS</sup> GRIFFITH.**



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**A V E S .**

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## WOOD OWL.

*Strix sylvatica.* *S. ferrugineo seu griseo-fusca nigro varia, tectricibus albis maculatis, oculis glaucis.*

Ferruginous-brown or Grey-brown Owl, with the wing-coverts spotted with white, and glaucous eyes.

*Strix Stridula?* *S. capite levi, corpore ferrugineo, remige tertio longiore.* *Lin. Syst. Nat.*

Le Chathuant. *Buff. ois.*

*Strix Adrovandi.* *Raii. syn. p. 25.*

Common Brown or Ivy Owl. *Will. orn.*

Braune, oder stock Eule. *Frisch t. 96.*

Gelbliche oder brand Eule. *Frisch t. 96.*

Tawny Owl. *Penn. Brit. Zool. edit. fol.*

Brown Owl. *Albin 1. pl. 9.*

Tawny Owl. *Lath. syn.*

*Strix Uhu?* *S. capite levi, corpore supra fusco albo maculato, nectricibus fasciis linearibus albis.* *Lin. Syst. Nat.*

Great Brown Owl. *Albin 3. pl. 7.*

Grey Owl. *Will. orn.*

Brown Owl. *Penn. Brit. Zool. edit. fol.*

*Strix Aluco?* *Lin. Syst. Nat.*

La Hulote? *Briss. av. 1. p. 507.*

It will be perceived that I have given to the present species, which is a very common inhabitant of our own country, a name different from those by which it has been distinguished by Mr. Pennant. A sufficient reason for this change is, that the *Brown Owl* and *Tawny Owl* of Mr. Pennant are now pretty well understood to be no other than the male and female of the same species, differing merely in the cast of their colours, the one having more of a grey and the other of a ferruginous tinge

intermixed with the brown ground-colour of their plumage. The separation of the English Wood Owl into two supposed species has been the cause of much confusion in ornithological works; and as the bird seems to be the only British species which is more particularly found in woody than in other situations, the title of *Wood Owl* seems best adapted to its nature. In size this species equals, and perhaps sometimes surpasses the common White or Barn-Owl, and its colour is an elegant variegation of black streaks, spots, and freckles, disposed on a brown ground-colour, which, as before mentioned, inclines in some individuals to a tawny or ferruginous, and in others to a grey cast: on the wing-coverts are several spots or patches of white, so disposed as generally to form three rows of spots down the coverts: the ruff or circle of rising plumes surrounding the face are also largely intermixed with white, and the lower part of the belly, with the thighs, are of this colour: the tail is varied with black bars and markings on the brown or tawny ground-colour: the irides are of a deep glaucous blue colour: the larger wing-feathers are barred or crossed by several dusky-brown bands: the legs are covered to the claws with whitish downy feathers, and the bill is brown. This bird, as before observed, chiefly frequents woods, and deposits its eggs, generally four in number, of an elliptic form, and of a whitish colour, in the hollows of trees. Mr. Pennant informs us that the young birds will feed on any dead thing, whereas those of the white or Barn Owl must have

a constant supply of fresh meat. With respect to the general manners of the Wood Owl, Mr. Pennant observes that by night these birds are very clamorous; and that when they hoot, their throats are greatly inflated: "in the dusk they approach our dwellings, and will frequently enter pigeon-houses, and make great havock in them. They destroy numbers of little leverets, as appears by the legs frequently found in their holes: they also kill abundance of moles, and skin them with as much dexterity as a cook does a rabbit."

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 ALUCO OWL.

*Strix Aluco. S. cinereo-ferruginea nigro alboque maculata, subtus albida nigro varia, oculis fuscis.*

Cinereo-ferruginous Owl, with black and white spots, beneath whitish with black variegations, and brown eyes.

*Strix Aluco. S. capite lævi, corpore ferrugineo, iridibus atris, remigibus primoribus serratis. Lin. Syst. Nat.*

*Strix cinerea? Raii. syn.*

*La Hulotte. Buff. ois. Pl. Enl. 441.*

*Strix Aluco. Lath. ind. orn. Aluco Owl. Lath. syn.*

*Brown Owl? Penn. Brit. Zool.*

THIS, says Buffon, may be termed the Black Owl, and is larger than the rest of the common European Owls, measuring near fifteen inches from the tip of the bill to the claws: the head is large and round; the face sunk as it were in the plumage; the eyes, which are of a blackish or deep brown colour, are buried in greyish ragged feathers, and