

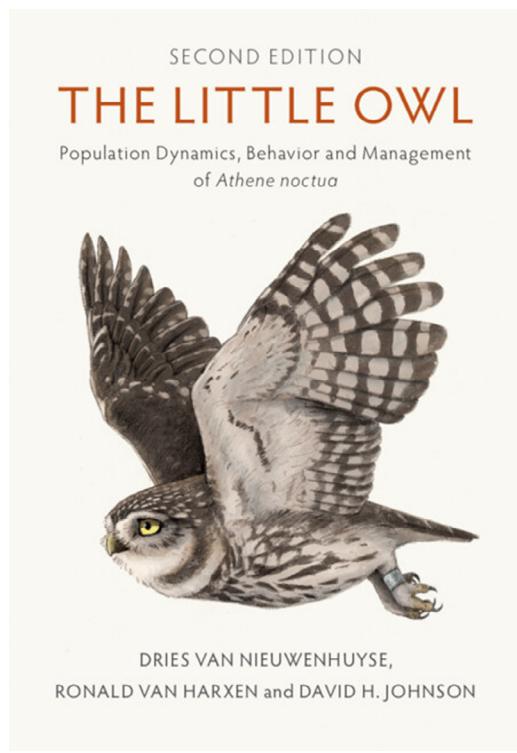
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## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ON A SPECIES THAT INSPIRED MYTHS AND LEGENDS: ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOUR, EVOLUTION, CONSERVATION AND CURIOSITIES ON THE LITTLE OWL



**Van Nieuwenhuyse D., van Harxen R. and Johnson D.H., 2023.** The Little Owl. Population Dynamics, Behavior and Management of *Athene noctua*. 2nd Ed. Cambridge University Press 616 pp.

Little Owls (*Athene noctua*) have inspired human folklore and myths for centuries, symbolizing knowledge, dread, wisdom, and witchcraft. Humans have shared a strong cultural relationships with this small, synanthropic species, which has benefitted from human alteration of the landscapes, at least until the mid-twentieth century, when drastic declines in many owl species caught the attention of ornithologists and conservation biologists.

This book synthesizes the vast body of literature on the Little Owl, exploring the history and traditions on this species, its genetics and evolution, habitat, distribution, population trends and regulation, and behaviour. The books end with two chapters dedicated to conservation and research priorities needed to address the significant gaps that still exist in our knowledge of the Little Owl.

Written in an extremely rigorous yet enjoyable language, the books stands out in the monographic literature on bird species for its completeness and detail. Certain sessions, such as those on population regulation, delve into broader ecological concepts, but always without losing the rigor or the focus on the Little Owl. These

sections, in my opinion, are joy to read. simply fantastic to read, at least in my personal opinion.

A large number of colour and gray-scale pictures, maps and graphs enriches the book, making it an indispensable resource for both professional and amateur ornithologists with an interest in this Little Owl (but, honestly, what ornithologist wouldn't be interested in this captivating species?).

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