



Guara Somontano Incógnito

Saso Alto Route

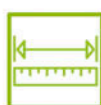
European Scops Owl

Athene noctua



Route information

Circular
 Peralta de Alcofea
 3 h
 15 m
 KM 11,4



Length: 21-23 cm
Wingspan: 50-55 cm



In some parts of Aragón, it was believed that the call of the European Scops Owl announced the death of a person.



The plumage of the European Scops Owl ranges from light to dark brown, with small white spots on its body. It has a round face and lacks the characteristic 'tufts' seen in other owls like the Eurasian Eagle Owl. Its large yellow eyes provide excellent vision adapted to its crepuscular and nocturnal habits. It is an adaptable species found in a variety of habitats, though it prefers open areas such as fields, meadows, clear forests and rural areas. Its diet mainly consists of insects, rodents, small reptiles and small birds. It often hunts from an elevated perch, patiently waiting for its prey to approach. Its breeding season begins in late spring or early summer. The female lays between 4 and 6 eggs, which she incubates for about 28 days.



Unlike other owls that have loud and piercing calls, the little owl's song is more subtle.



It is not considered endangered, however, some local populations may be in decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use and changes in agricultural practices.

Did you know?

It has few natural predators due to its size and great ability to hide. The greatest threat it faces comes from larger birds or cats, which are a danger to its chicks.



Recommended time: From February to April. It is very active during sunset and sunrise.

Camouflage: Use neutral colors and avoid sudden movements.

Recommended equipment: Long-range telephoto lens (at least 300 mm), preferably with a large aperture.

Shutter speed: Try to keep it fast (at least 1/250 s or faster).

Silent mode: If your camera allows, activate this function to avoid noises that may scare it away.

Keep your distance: Use the telephoto lens to avoid interfering with its natural behavior.

Do not use flash: It can disturb and alter its behavior.

