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## Front Cover – THE LONG-EARED OWL (*ASIO OTUS*)

The long-eared owl is a species of owl which breeds in Europe, Asia, and North America. This species is a part of the larger grouping of owls known as typical owls, family *Strigidae*, which contains most species of owls. The body length of this species is about 30-40 cm and the wing span about one meter. Their weight is 200-300 grams. The head is relatively big with long feathers on top resembling ears. Their feathers with dark and light brown color provide an excellent camouflage while they sleep between the branches of trees. They live long lives and can reach more than 25 years. Active at night they feed on rodents and other small animals.

(Thank you to Dr. Benny Perlman for the photographs of the owls)