

# The Masked Owl



The Masked Owl is the largest Tyto owl and the second largest of the nocturnal birds (night birds) in Australia. It can have blackish-brown to grey-white spotted plumage with a chestnut coloured to white face edged with a darker ring. Its belly is also chestnut coloured to white, speckled with dark brown.

Masked Owls feed mainly on small mammals, such as rodents, rabbits and bandicoots. Other prey animals include possums, reptiles, birds and insects, with hunting taking place in the early hours of night. They sit on low perches listening for prey which, once detected, is taken from the ground or from the tree branches. The masked owl needs tall trees with suitable hollows for nesting and roosting and nearby areas for hunting. They are threatened because of land clearing and habitat destruction.

**Name:**

**Age:**

**School:**