

Little Owls *Athene noctua plumipes* nesting in Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Little Owls *Athene noctua plumipes* have been observed nesting in Munsu-dong, Taedonggang district, Pyongyang, DPR Korea, in the Polish embassy compound adjacent to the main diplomatic compound—this area is where the offices and residences for foreigners are located. In the Polish embassy compound, there are several rows of garages, one long apartment block where the observations were made and a smaller apartment block at the top of which the owls nested. There are also small areas of grass bushes, hedges and trees.

Little Owls were first heard in early March 2014 during the evening and at night, and one was seen on the roof overhang of the smaller apartment block. The first photograph was taken on 28 March. The rounded head without protruding ear tufts identified it as a Little Owl rather than either of the two scops owl species recorded in Pyongyang and which from time to time nest in the main diplomatic compound. From early April two birds were heard and a pair were seen sitting on a ledge under a cut-off drainpipe on the adjacent apartment, which proved to be the entrance to their nest.

Plate 1. Adult Little Owl *Athene noctua plumipes*, diplomatic compound, Pyongyang, DPR Korea, April 2014.



JOHN O'DEA

Plate 2. Adult Little Owl underneath nest entrance, diplomatic compound, Pyongyang, DPR Korea, April 2014.



JOHN O'DEA



JOHN O'DEA

Plate 3. Juvenile Little Owl, diplomatic compound, Pyongyang, DPR Korea, June 2014.

From that time the female was seldom seen, and was assumed to be incubating. A single chick emerged and was seen with the parents in early June. On 5 June the young Little Owl was found sitting in the entrance of the main apartment block and on 7 June in the stairwell. On both occasions it was taken to a grass verge from where it flew off with its excited parents.

John O'DEA

Email: johnkodea@googlemail.com

China
– Beidaihe & Happy Island

Russian Far East
– Kamchatka

Christmas Island
– Seabirds and Endemics

Sri Lanka
– Your Way (tailor-made)

Ladakh
– Snow Leopards

India
– Gujarat, Mammals and Birds

ASIA

Tel: 0117 9658 333
wildinfo@wildwings.co.uk
wildwings.co.uk

WILDWINGS

ATGL PROTECTED