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*The Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* often occurs in the same habitat as the African Grass Owl but, unlike this species, it is not strictly nocturnal and may emerge to hunt in the late afternoon and on heavily overcast days. It is the only gregarious southern African owl; sometimes as many as 25 birds may be seen hunting in the same area. Its long wings enable it to maintain a slow, buoyant, quartering flight, and prey – mainly rodents – is caught with a quick pounce. Like the African Grass Owl, the nest is on the ground in rank grass and 2 - 5 eggs are laid. The young often leave the nest hollow and disperse before they are able to fly to reduce the risk of predation on the entire brood.*

Photo and text: Peter Steyn
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