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The Cape Eagle-Owl Bubo capensis is often confused with the Spotted Eagle-Owl, but it is much larger, is more heavily barred on its abdomen, and has much larger feet. As a rule it prefers montane or rocky habitat, but it may even occur in arid regions such as the Karoo. The call is a deep triple-noted hoot, less protracted than that of the Spotted Eagle-Owl. As may be expected from the size of its feet, it is capable of killing large prey such as rock hares weighing 2 kg. Accumulations of pellets and bones near nesting and roosting sites provide a good indication of its varied diet, which includes insects, mammals such as dassies, rodents, squirrels and hedgehogs, and birds up to the size of a guineafowl.

Photo and text: Peter Steyn Email: peregrine@mweb.co.za

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