

## Night birds

**Owls** and **nightjars** are nocturnal and can be very difficult to observe. Unless you make a concerted effort to find them during the daytime, you are most likely only to have a quick glance at a bird in the car headlights. But there are measures you can take to ensure that you find these special birds:

- Walk with a local guide or someone who knows a particular site very well – local knowledge cannot be beaten. At Lake Baringo, in particular, there are plenty of excellent guides who can show you owls and nightjars, as well as other wildlife. Do try to keep your noise level down to avoid disturbance as the birds may be nesting and will, at the very least, be trying to rest.
- Listen at night and early morning for owls in the area. Most owls and nightjars have distinctive calls that can be easily recognized, especially if you purchase a good collection of bird sounds for reference (see the section on *Useful resources* page 244 for suggestions). Tracking a call early in the morning can help you to find roosting owls during the day.
- In some areas, night-drives may be permitted and it is worth checking with your lodge or camp to find out more. Drive slowly at night as nightjars often land on tracks and roads to keep themselves warm and can be easily run over or hit. Owls can often be found perched on roadside poles and fence-posts.



Spotted Eagle Owls are sometimes seen on tracks and roads at night.