



January – Female Marsh Harrier
Circus aeruginosus



February – Female Barn Owl *Tyto alba*



March – Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*



April – Male Montagu's Harrier
Circus pygargus



May – Juvenile Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*



June – Female White-tailed Eagle
Haliaeetus albicilla



July – Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*



August – Juvenile Kestrel
Falco tinnunculus



September – Buzzard *Buteo buteo*



October – Male Sparrowhawk
Accipiter nisus



November – Female Hen Harrier
Circus cyaneus



December – Female Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Front Cover – Juvenile Little Owl *Athene noctua*

RICHARD BROOKS became a professional wildlife photographer in the early 1990's, and although best known for his association with Lesvos and especially his book *Birding on the Greek Island of Lesvos* (which first appeared in '98), he has now been photographing wildlife near his home in Fulmodeston, Norfolk since moving there full-time twelve years ago. Apart from 60's and 70's music and sampling as many different beers as possible, birds of the feathered variety are his main passion – especially owls, and in particular the Barn Owl (which he photographs whenever possible from his 4x4 by using it for the purpose for which it was intended rather than for weekly trips to the supermarket!). Owls also figure prominently in the range of limited edition greetings cards, prints and framed pictures he produces; whilst his articles and images feature regularly in the bird watching press. He won the professional section of the *Wild Bird Photographer of the Year 2000* run by *Bird Watching* magazine, and has frequently been placed amongst the top ten entrants in the annual *British Birds* photo competition. From October 2004 he took the logical but painful step of embracing digital photography, and he now owns a Nikon D2x and is on the point of upgrading his trusty Nikon 500mm AFS lens for the new Image Stabilised (or VR) version due out in November for the cost of a small family car! Other than financial repercussions the main downside to all this is having to spend a number of hours a day downloading and editing images over the computer which could more usefully be spent in the pub or indulging in his increasingly time-consuming conservation work (largely unpaid!) which has now seen him single-handedly site well over 550 Barn Owl boxes throughout North Norfolk, which this year (in an exceptional season for the species) held close on 90 breeding pairs and are all now regularly monitored under licence - yielding much useful information on the birds' breeding success and eventual dispersal. To this end he is always on the look-out for more potential sites or unwanted tea chests! He has also built up what is thought to be (with a peak to-date of 34 pairs) the biggest colony in Norfolk of the rapidly declining Tree Sparrow in his garden and 'mini nature reserve' of less than one acre - largely through a combination of habitat management, regular all-round feeding and the generous provision of nest boxes. Apart from his annual spring trip to Lesvos he also managed a ten day photo trip (sadly not long enough) to N and S Uist in the Outer Hebrides (returning via Speyside) this June, and since early September has been doing his best to fight off the frenzied local media attention resulting from having one of his Red Kite images used on the new Royal Mail stamp issue! Those who blinked and missed his 30 seconds of fame on *About Anglia* might just have seen the *Eastern Daily Press* article or caught the odd mention on *Radio Norfolk* – culminating in his 60 minute appearance on *What's Rockin' Norfolk* on 17th September, when he was asked to choose some of his favourite music tracks and generally justify his existence. Once the pressures of superstardom have subsided he would naturally welcome enquiries to find out more about his work and the full programme of talks and products he has on offer!



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