

Species of this genus inhabit principally the northern parts of the world, and are generally characterized by the prevalence of grey or cinereous of various shades in their plumage."

GREAT } *Syrnium cinereum*, Gmelin. } Cinereus  
GREY OWL. } " *Lapponicum*, var. *cinereum*, C. } Owl.

This is considered the largest of the North American Owls. Length from 2 to 2½ feet; girth about 22 inches. Prevailing colour on upper parts dark chocolate-brown, mottled with greyish-white. Primaries also chocolate-brown, with mottled greyish-white bars on the middle and upper portion of the same. Tail similarly marked. Facial disc with alternate gray and dark brown circular bands. Breast and abdomen streaked and barred with greyish-white and dark brown, with more white on the breast. There is also a dark brown band extending from the breast almost round the neck. Legs and feet large and covered with smaller gray and brown banded feathers. Bill yellow; claws black.  
Nuns' Island, &c.

BARRED OWL (*Syrnium nebulosum*, Forster), *Hibou barré*.

This is one of our largest birds, being but very little smaller than the previous species. Length and girth about 20 inches. General colour on upper parts, brownish, barred with grayish-white; tail darker shades. Breast light gray, barred with brown. Abdomen light gray, with longitudinal streaks of brown. Under tail feathers whitish with broad cross bars of gray. Facial disc gray with dark rings or bars round the eyes. Legs yellowish-white; claws blackish; bill light yellow. The light coloured feathers both on the upper and under portion of the body are also slightly tinged with yellow.  
Nuns' Island, &c.

Genus; NYCTALE. Brehm.

"Size small. Head with very small ear tufts, only observable when erected; eyes small; bill moderate or not very strong; facial disc nearly perfect. Wings rather long; tail short; legs and toes densely feathered. Contains five species of small and quite peculiar owls, four of which are American and one European."

RICHARD- } *Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bonaparte. } Teng-  
SON'S OWL. } " *Tennensis*, var. *Richardsonii*, C. } malm's  
Owl. This is one of our smallest species. The following

is a description of one which, last fall, flew into a barn near the Mountain.

Length and girth about 8½ inches. Upper parts chocolate brown, with small white spots on the head, and more or less mottled with white on the back and wings. Tail also brown, but with four narrow white bands. Facial disc whitish. Above and below the bill, and running down towards the breast, brown. There is a dark brown band on the breast extending backwards. Under portion of body marked with broad white and brown streaks. Feathers covering the legs and toes, loosely arranged and of a brownish-white color, slightly barred with brown. Legs and feet rather large. Bill yellow towards the apex, and black at the base; claws black.

Mr. Passmore found the remains of two mice in the stomach of the above specimen.

Other specimens have been found at Lachine, Côte des Neiges, &c.

KIRTLAND'S } (*Nyctale Albifrons*, Shaw) *Nyctale à front blanc*.  
OWL.

This is only about two-thirds of the size of the preceding species. Specimen in the N. H. S. Museum measures about 7½ inches in length, with a girth of about 9 inches. The tail has four bands of white, and is tipped with the same colour. The following is a description of a male bird of this species, which flew last fall into Mr. Joyce's pigeon-cot nearly opposite the Museum.

Prevailing colour on upper parts brown, slightly mottled with white on the wings. Tail with two narrow white bands, and tipped with white. Facial disc brown with a white patch rising at the base of the upper mandible, and extending for a short distance above each eye. It is

on account of the possession of this distinct white patch on the forehead, so to speak, of the bird, that it has received the specific name, *albifrons*. Abdomen light yellowish-brown. Legs and feet covered with small closely fitting feathers of a light yellowish-white, giving a great appearance to both legs and toes. Bill and claws blackish.

Length and girth about 7 inches.  
Other localities, near Victoria Bridge.

SAW-WHET OWL (*Nyctale Acadica*, Gmelin.) Little, or Least Owl, Acadian Owl, Little Night Owl, Sparrow Owl. This is usually regarded as the smallest of our owls, though there is but little apparent difference between this and the preceding species, which it very closely resembles.

The length of the present species is about seven inches, with a girth of about nine inches. Prevailing colour above brown, streaked with white on the head—streaked appearance due to the whitened shafts of the feathers—and mottled with white on the front edges of the primaries, and on wing coverts. Tail also brown, with two narrow white bars, and tipped with white. Facial discs light greyish-brown. Breast and abdomen white, mottled with brown. Around the front portion of the throat and breast there is a sort of brown coloured band or collar. Under tail coverts greyish-white. Feathers on the legs and toes of a yellowish-white color, and rather closely arranged, giving these parts a long and slender appearance. Bill blackish; claws yellow.

This species is considered by Coues to be the adult, and by others only a variety of the preceding, or Kirtland's Owl. The chief difference between these species being the white patch on the forehead of Kirtland's Owl.

This species appears to be rather common, specimens having been obtained at Nuns' Island, Point aux Trembles, Back River, &c.

Sub-Family: NYCTRINAE.—The Day Owls.

"General form compact and robust. Head moderate, without ear-tufts; wings and tail rather long; tarsi strong, which, with the toes, are more densely covered than in any other division of this family.

This division embraces two species only, which inhabit the arctic regions of both continents, migrating southward in the winter."

Genus: NYCTEA. Stephens.

"Size, large; head, rather large; no facial disc; leg rather short, and with the toes densely covered with long hair-like feathers, nearly concealing the claws; bill short, nearly concealed by projecting feathers, very strong; claws strong, fully curved."

This genus contains one species only,

SNOWY OWL (*Nyctea nivea*, Daudin), White Owl; *Hibou blanc*. Length about two feet; girth about twenty-six inches; head, back, wings and tail white, mottled or spotted with chocolate brown; facial discs and breasts pure white—the white on the breast extending, like a collar, round the throat. More particularly is this collar complete in old birds than in young ones, in which the mottled brown and white feathers of the head extend down the back. Breast and abdomen with alternate broad dark-brown and white spots or bars; legs and feet densely covered with long, white, hair-like feathers; bill and claws blackish—in old, especially male birds, white predominates. In some cases the entire plumage is pure white. This species is frequently observed in the woods about the city, and more particularly on Nuns' Island.

Genus: SURNIA. Dumeril.

General form rather long, but robust; size medium. Contains one species only, which inhabits the northern regions of both continents.

HAWK OWL. } *Surnia ulula*, Linnæus. }  
" " } var. *Hudsonius*, C. } DAY OWL.

The Canada Owl. This bird bears a very close resemblance to the hawk, and as it appears to fly about and pursue its prey during the day, rather than at night, it is frequently