

Owls in France

French – *Latin* – English

In France there are 9 species of Owl and unlike the UK they have a name prefix that divides owls with visible ear tufts from those without visible ear tufts. It seems even most French people are unaware of this as they only learn the name and not the reason why. Most of these owls have other popular names including many of which that are local.

Choutte = Owls with no visible ear tufts.

Chouette effraie, Effraie des clochers - *Tyto alba* - Barn Owl

Chouette chevêche, Chevêche d'Athéna - *Athene noctua* – Little Owl

Chouette chevêchette, Chevêchette d'Europe - *Glaucidium passerinum* – Pygmy Owl

Chouette hulotte – *Strix aluco* – Tawny Owl

Chouette de Tengmalm - *Aegolius funereus* - Tengmalm's owl, Boreal Owl.

Hibou = Owls with visible ear tufts.

Hibou des marais - *Asio flammeus* – Short Eared Owl

Hibou petit-duc - *Otus scops* – Scops Owl

Hibou moyen-duc - *Asio otus* – Long Eared Owl

Hibou Grand-duc d'Europe - *Bubo bubo* – Eagle Owl

Note:

Long Eared and Short Eared Owls will often move in winter and form groups with communal roosts which can be as many as 50 birds. All remain in France with the exception of Scops Owls that have a real or proper migration to Africa for the winter, (October – March).

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