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Birds- Brazil's Owls, by Antonio Silveira

# Brazil's Owls

*by Antonio Silveira*



As it is known by us, Brazil is the country that has the biggest biodiversity in the world, and one of the biggest in quantity of bird species, in a way that our bird fauna is too rich, and it is composed of many families and its enormous quality of species.

Talking about the owls, there are in Brazil 38 forms among species and subspecies, which follow bellow.

This list was done for helping birdwatchers.



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## TYTONIDAE FAMILY

*Tyto alba* (Suindara or Coruja-branca; Barn Owl).



Cosmopolitan bird, existing almost all around the world, and existing all around Brazil. It mainly lives near human habitation, where it is used to nest at the church and towers. The voice looks like the sound of tearing a cloth, which usually emits in flying. Size: 37 cm. Two forms in Brazil:

- *Tyto alba tuidara*. This form occurs at central and oriental Brazil. For the south area up to the Fire Land and west in Chile.
- *Tyto alba hellmagri*. It occurs at Venezuela's east and Guineas and from the extreme north up to the left bank of Amazonas River.

## STRIGIDAE FAMILY

*Megascops choliba*; Corujinha-do-mato; Tropical Screech-Owl



Occurs at Costa Rica to Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina and all around Brazil, being one of the most common; in the forest board and near human habitation, where are a lot of insects attracted by the lights, mainly from the posts. Eminently of night habits. Size: 22 cm. Five forms at Brazil:

- *Megascops choliba choliba*. South Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay e North Argentina.
- *Megascops choliba crucigerus*. Occurs at low Amazonas and Brazil's center.
- *Megascops choliba caatingensis*. Northeast Brazil.
- *Megascops choliba decussatus*. East Brazil.
- *Megascops choliba chapadensis*. South Brazil.



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***Megascops watsonii*; Corujinha-orelhuda; Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl**

It habits pine trees areas and forests. Occurs from Venezuela to Bolivia, Mato Grosso, Pará, Amapá. Size: 22 cm. Four forms at Brazil.

- *Otus watsonii watsonii*. Occurs at North Amazônia.
- *Otus watsonii ater*. Central Brazil.
- *Otus watsonii usta*. Central Brazil and North Argentina.
- *Otus watsonii fulvescens*. Central Brazil up North Bolivia.

***Megascops usta*; Corujinho-relógio; Austral Screech-Owl**

Occurs at Rio Amazonas, do Maranhão ao Amazonas e Rondônia

***Megascops atricapilla*; Corujinha-sapo; Black-capped Screech-Owl**

Developed ears. Habits forests. Besides Brazil it also exists at Paraguay, Argentina (Misiones) and Uruguay. Size: 24 cm. Two forms at Brazil:

- *Megascops atricapilla atricapilla*. Central regions and South Brazil.
- *Megascops atricapilla argentinus*. Brazil's South Area.

***Megascops sanctaecatarinae*; Corujinha-do-sul; Long-tufted Screech-Owl**

It occurs at Santa Catarina, having some diversity about if it is a specie or sub-specie of the one above.

***Megascops guatemalae*; Corujinha-de-roraima; Vermiculated Screech-Owl**

Roraima's North Area. Size: 19 cm.

***Lophotrix cristata cristata*; Coruja-de-crista; Crested Owl**

Long ears, forming a V. It occurs from Venezuela to Bolivia, Mato Grosso North and Pará. It habits forests of Amazônia. Size: 39,5 cm

***Pulsatrix perspicillata*; Murucututu; Spectacled Owl**



Habits high forests, not being just nighter. Size: 48 cm.

- *Pulsatrix perspicillata perspicillata*. North area of South America and Brazil. Regions of dense forests.
- *Pulsatrix perspicillata pulsatrix*. It lives at the atlantic side of forest from Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul.



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*Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*; Murucututu-de-barriga-amarela; Tawny-browed Owl



It lives at forest regions at the Southeast of Brazil. Size: 44 cm.

*Bubo virginianus*; Jacurutu; Great Horned Owl



It occurs all around Brazil, and it is the biggest owl of Americas. It breeds from animals of big port as: cutie's youngs, cats, pries etc. At the sunlight, it sleeps in the forest, on big trees, and at night, it goes near human habitation in isolated places, for catching small-domesticated animals. It is easily found, mainly in couples, at the capons in the region of Nhecolândia-MS. 52 cm. Two forms:

- *Bubo virginianus nacurutu*. It occurs at South America. In Brazil at Amazônia, Mato Grosso, Goiás and R.G.do Sul.
- *Bubo virginianus deserti*. This form habits the arid area of Brazil Northeast.

*Strix hylophila*; Coruja-listrada; Rusty-barred Owl



It occurs at Brazil's South and Southeast. Paraguay, North Argentina. Forests edge. Size: 35 cm.



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### *Strix virgata*; Coruja-do-mato; Mottled Owl

Former *Ciccaba virgata*. Size: 34 cm.

- *Strix virgata superciliaris*. It habits the Amazonian forests.
- *Strix virgata borreliana*. Forests from South Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul.

### *Strix huhula*; Coruja-preta; Black-banded Owl

Former *Cicaba huhula*. Size: 35 cm.

- *Strix huhula huhula*. Occurs at Amazônia, Maranhão, Piauí, almost all around Brazil. High forest and pine trees areas.
- *Strix huhula albomarginata*. It is distributed from Rio de Janeiro to Santa Catarina.

### *Glaucidium hardyi*; Caburé-da-amazônia; Amazonian Pygmy-Owl

Occurs in Amazônia, Pará and north of Mato Grosso

### *Glaucidium mooreorum*; Caburé-de-pernambuco; Pernambuco Pygmy-Owl

Occurs in Pernambuco

### *Glaucidium minutissimum*; Caburé-miudinho; Least Pigmy-Owl

It habits open forests at the east of Brazil, also occurring at Guiana and Suriname. Size: 14 cm.

### *Glaucidium brasilianum*; Caburé; Ferruginous Pigmy-Owl



It habits forested areas, edge of the forests and scrub of almost all Brazil area, being our smallest owl. It vocalizes at night and day, being observed at Pantanal region vocalizing almost all day long without stopping. Size: 16,5 cm.



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*Athene cunicularia cunicularia*; Coruja-buraqueira; Burrowing Owl



Former *Speotyto cunicularia cunicularia*. It occurs almost all around Brazil, habiting the areas of open forest, where it is used to nesting termites areas and holes in the soil, having a big number of young. Day and night habits. It breeds of insects. Size: 23 cm.

Two forms at Brazil:

- *Athenes cunicularia grallaria*. East and central Brazil.
- *Athenes cunicularia cunicularia*. South Brazil to Fire Land.

*Aegolius harrisii iheringi*; Caburé-acanelado; Buff-fronted Owl

It habits small forests and scrub of Southeast and Northeast Brazil, Paraguay and North Argentina. Size: 20 cm.

*Asio clamator midas*; Coruja-orelhuda; Striped Owl

-Antigo *Rhinoptyrix clamator*. It habits open areas where are trees. It occurs almost all around Brazil, but not at Amazônia. Size: 37 cm.

*Asio stygius*; Mocho-diabo; Stygian Owl



It lives at forests and scrubs. Occurs at Southeast and Amazônia. Size: 38 cm.



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### *Asio flammeus*; Mocho-dos-banhados; Short-eared Owl

Their ears are too small and near one of the other. It occurs at South and Southeast area of Brazil up to the Terra do Fogo. It habits drowns where it is used to gliding and open areas for migrating. Size: 37 cm.

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