

EAR-TUFTS, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Grand héron – Great Blue Heron – *Ardea Herodias*

Florida

Did you know? During breeding season, the Great Blue Heron develops two long ornamental feathers that extend from the black spots on its head, characteristic of its nuptial plumage.

Grand-duc d'Amérique – Great Horned Owl – *Bubo virginianus*

UQROP, St-Jude

Did you know? Owls' ears are asymmetric. They have two earholes of two different sizes and of two different heights which makes them capable of locating the origin of a sound with high accuracy.

Huppe fasciée – Eurasian Hoopoe – *Upupa epops*

Montcalm hamlet, Camargue, France

Did you know? The Eurasian Hoopoe is easily recognizable by its crest, usually held closed as shown in this picture. It can often be raised like a fan just after landing or at the slightest excitement.

Petit-duc maculé – Eastern Screech-Owl – *Megascops asio*

Papineau woodland, Laval

Did you know? Ear-tufts are thought to help camouflage the owl by blurring the outline of the bird's head which creates the impression that it is one with the tree.

Grèbe à cou noir – Eared Grebe – *Podiceps nigricollis*

St-Michel en Brenne, Val-de-Loire, France

Did you know? During a courtship display, both male and female Eared Grebe synchronize their movements, nodding their heads and fanning their golden ornamental feathers sideways.

Cormoran à aigrettes – Double-crested Cormorant – *Nannopterum auritum*
Everglades National Park, Florida

Did you know? True to its name, the adult Double-crested Cormorant displays two tufts of feathers, or crests, on its heads during the breeding season.

Alouette hausse-col – Horned Lark – *Eremophila alpestris*
Tadoussac Dunes

Did you know? The male Horned Lark can be differentiated by the ornamental feathers he proudly wears on top of its head.

Grande aigrette – Great Egret – *Ardea alba*
Florida

Did you know? The Great Egret develops long, elegant feathers on its back, lower neck, and chest during the mating season. These ornamental feathers were so highly valued by hat manufacturers that it almost caused their extinction.

Grèbe esclavon – Horned Grebe – *Podiceps auritus*
Îles de la Madeleine

Did you know? During the breeding season, both male and female Horned Grebes wear ornamental feathers on their head, while the male's one tends to be brighter in color.

Hibou moyen-duc – Long-eared Owl – *Asio otus*
La Saulaie Park, Boucherville

Did you know? Owls have a very sensitive sense of hearing. The layers of densely packed feathers that form the facial disc act as reflectors amplifying sound waves and funneling them towards the owl's ears.

Paon bleu – Indian Peafowl – *Pavo cristatus*
Florida

Did you know? While both sexes wear a fan-shaped crest on their heads, only the male Indian Peafowl has a long train of elongated feathers adorning eyespots.