## Genus Athene.

This section of the Owls comprises many species, distributed over Europe, India, and other portions of the Old World. By modern systematists these have been subdivided into no less than fifteen subgenera, the particulars of which need not be detailed here, inasmuch as we have only to deal with the single species which visits our country.

LITTLE OWL.

A very common bird in France and other parts of Europe. In England it may have and doubtless has occurred more frequently than has been supposed; but it is a bird which cannot be easily detected, however diligently it may be searched for. Numerous instances of its occurrence are on record; and besides the nest mentioned by Hunt as having been taken at no great distance from Norwich, another is reported to have been met with in the New Forest, and the young taken and reared at Harrow.

## ORDER INSESSORES.

## Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

Members of this great family of nocturnal birds frequent the warmer portions of almost every part of the globe, and are nearly as varied in structure as they are numerous in species. In the New World the caveloving Steatornis and the long-tailed Hydropsales are among the most conspicuous of the forms inhabiting that section of the world, as the great Podargi and the eared Lyncornithes are of those inhabiting the Old. Their food mainly consists of insects and their larvæ, with occasionally fruits and berries.

## Genus Caprimulgus.

The birds of this restricted form are confined to the Old World, over the greater portion of which they range. Two are found in Great Britain.

NIGHTJAR OF GOAT-SUCKER.

The Nightjar, Goat-sucker, or Churn-Owl, by which trivial names this species is known, is a true migrant,