

walk over it. As corroboration on this point, it may be recalled that there is this same deference to relative vigor evident when owls are persecuted. A mounted decoy owl will attract more onslaughts from Crows and hawks if its wings or head are kept in motion by some mechanical device. During observations on the Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*) (Kelso, *Oölogist*, 56: 16-18, 1939) it was noted that Crows would annoy the adults but would ignore the less vigorous juvenals.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado*.

The scream of the Northern Barred Owl.—Early in the evening of November 29, 1939, I stood with Richard Stackpole, of Boston, at the edge of Crooked Pond, Boxford, Massachusetts. Having tried without success for several minutes an imitation of the usual Barred Owl's hooting I took out of my pocket a small wooden whistle. The pitch of this whistle is so penetrating that I customarily hold my fingers in my ears while blowing.

Back upon the first blast from the whistle, so quickly that my first reaction was that I was hearing an echo, came the rather rarely heard scream of a Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*) followed immediately by the usual, 'Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?' The bird was apparently on the hillside rising from the other shore of the pond and probably not over 150 yards distant, at the most.

Mr. Stackpole and I agreed that the pitch of the answer was identical with the pitch of my whistle. The following day, therefore, I established the pitch of my whistle by comparison with a piano. Pitch was the 'B,' one note below high 'C.'—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Saw-whet Owls at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.—The Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) is regarded as an irregular winter visitant in the Philadelphia region. In 'Field Notes' of 'Cassinia,' there are eight published records of the occurrence of this species around Philadelphia from August 1930 to July 1937.

This autumn, 1939, a comparatively heavy influx of these birds has taken place in and near Philadelphia. On October 30, 1939, a dead bird was picked up at 17th and Walnut Sts., in downtown Philadelphia by Quinton Kramer. One bird was seen at Bustleton, Philadelphia, by William Yoder on November 19, 1939, and was captured by hand and banded. About three miles distant, Yoder found another at Holmesburg, Philadelphia, the same day; and this was also taken and banded. Another record on that same day, November 19, 1939, was a bird found in a very small honeysuckle thicket at Frankford, Philadelphia, by James B. Wright. At Fairmount Park, in Philadelphia, Millard Lindauer observed one bird on November 25, 1939. On November 26, 1939, Lindauer found another bird at Mt. Holly, New Jersey. It is well that the Holmesburg bird was banded because, on December 3, 1939, the writer found another bird in the same thicket without a band. This bird was promptly banded. On December 17, 1939, the writer picked up a freshly killed specimen on the highway at Hartford, New Jersey. The same incident occurred when Kramer found a dead bird along the road at Eddington, Pennsylvania, on December 24, 1939.

It can be seen that, in these modern times of automobile conveyance, there is a definite mortality of Saw-whet Owls resulting from their being struck by cars. It has been gathered from Richard F. Miller that the depleted ranks of Screech Owls, as compared to their relative abundance in former years, is partly due to increased traffic of automobiles. It seems obvious that this situation would affect the Saw-whet Owls as well.

From observations gathered here, it appears that the Saw-whet Owl, on its winter habitat, is constantly wandering from one locality to another. In very few instances, a second sight record of a bird has been obtained in the same thicket where it was first found. From the scarcity of mid-winter records, it seems that the bulk of the birds pass to the south of us to winter.

It has been my experience and I have gathered from others that, around Philadelphia, these birds are usually found in honeysuckle tangles. There was one exception, however, of a bird having been found in a dense nursery grove of young pines.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2261 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Saw-whet Owls in Kentucky.—On October 21, 1939, while searching for golden mice (*Peromyscus nuttalli nuttalli*) at Rodburn, two miles east of Morehead, Rowan County, Kentucky, it was the good fortune of the writer to capture an adult Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*). When first seen, the owl was sitting about six feet from the ground in a small sweet-gum tree. It was sound asleep, and was captured by hand before it was aware of what was transpiring. The owl was found near the center of a damp, dense thicket, covering approximately five acres. On one side the thicket was bounded by a small stream. The dominant woody plants of the thicket were pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), yellow pine (*Pinus echinata*), scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*), common sumac (*Rhus glabra*), dwarf sumac (*Rhus copallina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Green briars (*Smilax rotundifolia*) were very abundant in the area, and had grown up into the bushes, making a very dense thicket.

The writer attempted to keep the bird alive, but found it would eat only live mice. Due to stress of other duties, it was impossible to capture enough mice, so the owl died on October 30, 1939, and the skin is now No. 554 in the Morehead State Teachers College Museum at Morehead, Kentucky. This is apparently the first record of the occurrence of this little owl in Kentucky.—ROGER W. BARBOUR, State Teachers College, Morehead, Kentucky.

Red-headed Woodpecker nesting in New Hampshire.—In the summer of 1939, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) occupied a recently lumbered area close to the village of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, and raised a brood in one of the dead trees not leveled by the hurricane of September, 1938.

The first report was the observation of one bird on June 18 by Mrs. Sturgis Coffin, who was attracting many other species to her suet and feeding trays. This record was confirmed by Mr. Wendell Taber on June 24, when both birds were seen. The eggs were hatched by July 17, when the writer's daughter Margot, with a small and lady-like hand, could feel the young at the bottom of the ten-inch hole in the tree. The birds were quiet and not shy, in spite of being under constant supervision of Mr. George Haydock and his eager groups of young campers from South Pond Cabins. The parents brought the young birds out of the nest on August 3, and gradually introduced them to the insect colonies in the neighboring trees. For several days the two adults and two young were counted, but on August 25, five birds were counted. All five were seen almost daily until September 4, when the writer left town. It is impossible to say whether the fifth bird was a new arrival in the area or a third young which had for some reason been overlooked.—ROGER C. FENN, Concord, Massachusetts.