

A male Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) was seen in an elder tree near Avalon on April 15, 1929. The birds have been reported from several other of the channel islands, but this seems to be the first record from Catalina. I recently learned that a cage-bird of this species escaped from the Catalina bird park about a year ago, and there is a possibility that the bird I saw was the one that had been brought to the island. It is quite possible that the native avifauna of Catalina Island will be seriously affected by introduced species within the next few years.—DON MEADOWS, *Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California, April 20, 1930.*

Hawks Unwelcome Visitors at Banding Stations.—Six Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter velox*) and six Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) have been trapped at our station. All but two of these have been caught in the original Michener Warbler trap with a dead bird tied to the bottom of the trap for bait, usually a bird that the hawk had killed in one of the other traps. In the case of one of these exceptions, a Sparrow Hawk went into one compartment of a four-compartment trap having Potter type doors. It was after birds in the other compartments. In the other exception, a Sparrow Hawk was in a two-compartment Potter trap set on a stand pipe with a water-drip for bait. There was no other bird in either compartment of this trap, but the hawk had killed a Gambel Sparrow in a trap on the ground about forty feet away. Our journal records another occasion on which two Sparrow Hawks were seen at this water-drip trap; but in neither case is it known that they were there because of the water, though they must drink sometime somewhere.

These hawks are quick to take advantage of the birds in the traps and usually kill one or two before they themselves can be caught or driven away, and it seldom is easy to do the latter here where shooting is not permitted. Because of their persistence in returning to the traps after the other birds, we felt it necessary to dispose of the hawks when we caught them. For a while this was done by killing them and presenting them as specimens to those persons who desired them. Of late we have adopted a scheme which suits us better. It follows a suggestion made by Mr. Roland C. Ross that we band them and release them at a distant point. The last five, all Sharp-shinned Hawks and all caught during the last six months, have been banded and given to Mr. Law who, after keeping most of them for a few days to study their feeding habits, has released them at points several miles away from this banding station.

The persistence of these hawks, particularly the Sharp-shinned, is illustrated by the following entries taken from our journal. Under date of October 14, 1929: "C9934, House Finch, male. Killed by hawk in number 4 trap at 5:30 p. m." Then on the following day, Mrs. Michener writing: "After I found C9934 dead in the trap I set the hawk trap with him in it. It was almost dark. The hawk watched me from the shed roof (about thirty feet away) while I arranged the trap, then flew to the eucalyptus tree (about one hundred feet away). After a few moments I went out and saw the hawk leaving the vicinity of the trap. Early this morning, 6:45, I went out and found that it had sprung the trap. It was there. It flew to the eucalyptus and I reset the trap. Shortly after, I went out and found it in the trap with the finch well eaten." "353086 Sharp-shinned Hawk, immature, in trap no. 12, 7:00 a. m. Mr. Law took it to release at his station."

It was only the intervention of darkness that kept this hawk away from the bird it had killed, for thirteen hours. Or did it go there in the darkness, spring the trap without getting caught and stay around there until daylight? Probably not, but we do not know. Usually the hawks are back and into the traps in a very few minutes, sometimes before the one who has set the trap is out of sight.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Pasadena, California, April 2, 1930.*

Saw-whet Owls in Oakland, California.—On November 30, 1929, a Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) was seen near Mosswood Park in Oakland. It had been in the neighborhood for over a month, but, though heard by both Mr. Phillips Kloss and myself, had not been recognized. We continued hearing it at intervals until April 8, 1930. On the 8th of March it appeared that two owls had been in the vicinity, for two were seen that night.

The owl's identity was established on November 30, an exceptionally dark day. In the middle of the forenoon a great clatter of jays arose in my back yard. As

I went to close the kitchen door, I noticed that there were other birds too, which were behaving excitedly. I should have thought no more about it if my son had not suggested that the jays were robbing a nest, and so forced me to offer a possible substitute, namely, "owl." And owl it was. One look revealed him sitting about eight feet from the ground between two horizontal limbs of an old rose vine. Above, on the garage roof and in trees, nine or ten kinds of birds were beside themselves with excitement. The boldest of these, a Bewick Wren and an Anna Hummingbird, advanced repeatedly to within a yard of the owl, the Hummingbird buzzing directly in his face; while the shyest, a Hermit Thrush, uttered his almost unnoticed "chuck" in a tree forty feet away. To these challenges and to quick movements of his human watchers also, the owl's only response was the slow opening and shutting of the eyelids, a slight turning of the head being barely perceptible. The Jays had fled at our first approach and the other birds disappeared in a few minutes, the incident being closed from then on as far as they were concerned. The owl remained in the same position until 4:30 and was gone at 5:10.

Two owls appeared on March 8 at about 10:00 p. m. Attracted to the window by a whimpering sound, I saw in the big beech that touches the house the form of an owl. I called my father, Mr. F. T. Jencks, a bird authority of Rhode Island,

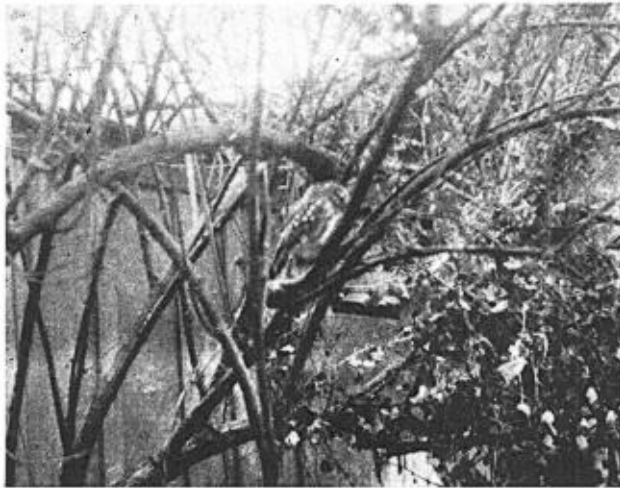


Fig. 75. A SAW-WHET OWL IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—NOT AN IDEALLY CLEAR PICTURE BUT SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY.

and with a flash light we found that there were two owls. One was too distant for our light, but we could see that the nearer of the two, at fifteen feet, was very small and had no ear tufts. He was not at all shy, for he stood the light two or three minutes before making a short flight to a tree near-by. The two owls were alike, for they made the same sound.

Altogether I have heard the owl at least seven times, the last three times being on February 17, March 29, and April 8. On all occasions but one it has been toward morning, on the 29th between 5:30 and 5:40 on a foggy day, and on the 8th between 4:15 and 4:30. The usual call is a series of whistled notes, all on the same pitch, consisting of four or six slower ones that accelerate, followed by five or six rapid ones in somewhat uneven rhythm. I believe he does the call in one breath, the rapid notes being the tag end of it. On the night the two owls appeared they were making a very soft whimper, as if through a closed or nearly closed bill, and on February 12 the last call I heard sounded as if the bird had shut his mouth on it. Once on that morning I was happy to hear what some have thought imaginary, the call for which the owl was named, and which, in its succession of four or five regular ups and downs, does sound definitely like the filing of a saw.—MARSHALL JENCKS, 3416 Webster Street, Oakland, California, May 6, 1930.