

next brood in the same territory. Only two banded juveniles remained in the study area.) MKM

**Changes in the abundance of Silvereyes in a central Victorian vineyard during the grape-ripening period.** T. C. Burton. 1996. *Corella* 20:61-66. Div. Biol. & Chem. Sci., La Trobe Univ., Bendigo, Box 199, Bendigo, Victoria 3550, Australia (Silvereyes were caught in mist-nets and color-banded. The Joly-Seber method of analyzing capturing/recapture data was used to determine population turn-over and estimate survival rate, which was low. Data are included on relative

proportion and seasonal dynamics of two races, and reliability of the Joly-Seber estimates is discussed.) MKM

**MKM** =Martin K. McNicholl

## Books

**NEW JERSEY'S OWLS.** By Len Soucy, Illustrations by Michael McNelly. 2000. The Raptor Trust, Millington, NJ. 62 pp. Paper \$14.95 + \$3.50 post-age US.

The author of this delightful, thought-provoking book on New Jersey's owls makes an eloquent and strong statement for the conservation of raptors—namely owls. In his preface, Len states, "Would it not benefit humankind to become better stewards of owls and other wild creatures, and protect the natural world that sustains them—and us, as well?" This conservation theme runs throughout the book.

The short history of myths surrounding owls is interesting as well: "Owls seem to evoke a wide variety of feelings in humans. They are adored by many people and despised by others. They're often feared, yet often idolized. They are perceived as everything from spooky and evil omens to admirable and magnificent birds."

A short introduction documents the existence and recognition of owls, where they are found, what species are found in North America, and finally the owls found in New Jersey and their status.

The chapter entitled, "The Living Bird," is next and is packed with information about the physiology of owls plus detailed information about their nesting and breeding behavior. Especially interesting is the transparent skeletal overlay of a Barred Owl. Following this chapter, is a species account with detailed information on eight species of owls and their status in New Jersey. Next is a color picture gallery

of superb photos of these eight species of owls. The black and white sketches throughout the book are excellent, and combined with the color photographs, they add immensely to the overall appearance.

A section on owl longevity featured the Banding Office records as of 1998. Another section on owl pellets, is included with a description of the digestive processes of owls.

Two more sections finish the book: A section on how to attract owls with man-made nest boxes and a short history of The Raptor Trust.

A Glossary and a Bibliography follow.

Len Soucy, a long-time bander, is the founder and director of The Raptor Trust, one of the largest raptor rehabilitation centers in the U.S. His passion for conserving these creatures, with a special interest in owls is evident throughout the book. The proceeds from the sale of this book go to The Raptor Trust to continue its important rehabilitation work

The book is a steal at the price; and if you are interested in owls and conserving them, this book belongs in your home library.

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Check out The Raptor Trust website at:

<http://www.TheRaptorTrust.com>