

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.