

The Screech Owl doesn't screech. Its most usual call is a tremulous, mournful whinny running down the scale. The Long-eared has several notes including low "hoo-hoos" and a cat-like whine. The Short-eared has an explosive "kee-yow". The Saw-whet has a monotonous whistled note "too, too, too" like the rasping of a file over a saw. The Barn Owl makes more of a hiss for a sound. Owls are known for their "bill-clicking", the sound they make snapping the mandibles when disturbed. In addition, on getting too close to some, such as Great Horned Owls, they will hiss.

Much remains to be known about the biology and population dynamics of owls, but amateurs can contribute to our knowledge. Present information about their life histories suggests that owls play an important part in the scheme of nature and they are economically beneficial. From an esthetic point of view, I, for one, would rate the extinction of one single species of owl at the hands of man as a great loss.

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The bibliography which follows continues the pattern set in previous years. When the title is in parentheses this indicates that the item referred to had no title, and the one used here is aimed at expressing the content of the item as briefly as possible. When the bird species concerned was not implicit in the title of the article, this information is added after the citation, in parentheses. When the location from which the observations were made was not implicit in the title, the county is given after the citation, in parentheses, if it could be determined from the article. Where neither county or species is given, it is to be assumed that a) more than one county is concerned and b) several species of birds are concerned.

The compiler feels, as he has said previously, that more coverage of local lists and bird club publications would be desirable. No doubt many significant contributions are omitted by oversight. If individual authors would take it upon themselves to send copies of papers or citations of such papers to the author, coverage would be greatly improved.

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