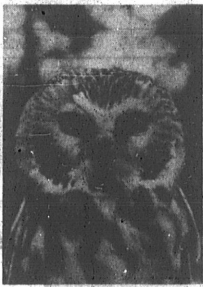


Small Saw-Whet Owl With a Haunting Call



*"Nightly Sings
The Staring Owl . . .
'tu-Whit, tu-Whoo' . . ."*

THE SAW-WHET OWL can hardly be said to go "Tu-Whit, Tu-Whoo" but its call is certainly a haunting one. It is a series of space, bell-like notes reminiscent of those sounds made by a person filing a saw—hence the name—saw-whet.

The yare small, chunky birds measuring some eight inches in length and they occur throughout most of temperate North America, from southern Alaska and into Mexico.

The birds is dark brown on head and back. Its breast is white or buffy and marked with soft diffused light-brown striping. The facial discs are distinctive, white above and between the eyes, and bordered above and on the sides with fine short lines which extend back over the crown.

EGGS ARE LAID in the abandoned nest-holes of woodpeckers, usually flickers. In April and May it deposits from four to seven pure white oval eggs and both parents take part in the incubation.

Adult saw-whets are not aggressive and usually perch close by the nest and watch when an intruder happens along. At any season these small owls are remarkably tame and may often be captured by hand.

During the day they are rarely seen, but they begin foraging when darkness falls. The food is mostly rodents—with mice being favored.

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