

SCREECH OWL

(Otus asio)



Length, about eight inches. Our smallest owl with ear tufts. There are two distinct phases of plumage, one grayish and the other bright rufous.

Range: Resident throughout the United States, southern Canada, and northern Mexico.

Habits and economic status: The little screech owl inhabits orchards, groves, and thickets, and hunts for its prey in such places as well as along hedgerows and in the open. During warm spells in winter it forages quite extensively and stores up in some hollow tree considerable quantities of food for use during inclement weather. Such larders frequently contain enough mice or other prey to bridge over a period of a week or more. With the exception of the burrowing owl it is probably the most insectivorous of the nocturnal birds of prey. It feeds also upon small mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians, fish, spiders, crawfish, scorpions, and earthworms. Grasshoppers, crickets, ground-dwelling beetles, and caterpillars are its favorites among insects, as are field mice among mammals and sparrows among birds. Out of 324 stomachs examined, 169 were found to contain insects; 142, small mammals; 56, birds, and 15, crawfish. The screech owl should be encouraged to stay near barns and outhouses, as it will keep in check house mice and wood mice, which frequent such places.

WHITMAN, NEBRASKA.

Mrs. Henry Moss, who has been quite ill, has recovered. They intend to move back to their ranch this summer.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson May 7th. The infant lived only a short while.

Mr. Arthur Bray has purchased two more carloads of steers. He is making preparations to remodel his home in the city.

Mr. J. W. Thompson purchased a home in the city. He placed an order with Mr. Pegg to buy him a carload of two-year-old heifers. Mr. John Grant Pegg visited his ranch here last week. A number of friends entertained him at a fishing party. He left Mr. Charles Moore in charge of his place.

A surprise party was given Tuesday evening May 16, under the leadership of Mr. Fox, complimentary to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hon. A pleasant time was spent by all. Sammie, the little five-year-old daughter of Mrs. Hibbs, sang a charming song to her aunt and uncle, wishing them many happy birthdays. She also sang "Brighten the Corner." Those present were Mrs. Penn, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Shanklin, Mrs.

Howard, Mrs. James, Mrs. Hibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Fox. Presents were presented by those present. An electric lamp was presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Belcher.

Mrs. Robert T. Walker gave a very delightful house party at her residence, 2121 North Twenty-seventh street, Wednesday night for the benefit of the Helpers.

SCHOOL NAMED FOR BENJAMIN BANNEKER

Baltimore, Md., May 19.—The Department of Public Instruction for the city of Baltimore has decided to name all of its public schools after its most noted or prominent men or characters, and the public school on the corner of East Federal and Carter streets will be named in honor of Benjamin Banneker, the Negro astronomer and mathematician, author of the first American Almanac, who assisted to survey and lay out the District of Columbia, who was entertained at the White House by President Thomas Jefferson and at his home in Monticello, Virginia.

A beautiful tablet has been unveiled in the school house to perpetuate his memory and in honor of the Colored people of Baltimore.

Many white and Colored citizens took part in the exercises. The closing address was made by Assistant Superintendent Roland Watts, after which the school children sang as only Negroes can sing, "The Star Spangled Banner."

The occasion was inspiring and will remain for a long while in the memory of those who were fortunate enough to be present.

Following is the title page of his Almanac:

"Benjamin Banneker's" Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia ALMANAC and EPHEMERIS

For the Year of Our Lord, 1792. Being Bisseztile, or Leap Year, and the Sixteenth Year of American Independence, which commenced July 4, 1776, containing the Motions of the Sun and Moon, the true places and Aspects of the Planets, the Rising and Setting of the Sun, and the Rising, Setting and Southing Place and Age of the Moon, etc.—The Lunations, Conjunctions, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Festivals, and other remarkable Days; Days for holding the Supreme and Circular Courts of the United States, as also the usual Courts in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Also, several useful Tables and valuable Receipts. Various selections from the Commonplace Book of the Kentucky Philosopher and American Sage, with interesting and entertaining Essays, in Prose and Verse—the whole comprising a greater, more pleasing and useful variety than any work of the kind and price in North America."



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