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## COMES TO THE DEFENCE OF THE OWLS, HAWKS AND OTHER BIRDS

(New York Sun)

A movement to save the owls—and incidentally the hawks and other birds—which has crystallized in New Jersey in the demand for legislation to prohibit pole traps, has received the indorsement of New York naturalists who are especially interested in these birds.

These friends of the owls and hawks would like to see protective legislation enacted in all the States and it should be much more thorough than the pole trap prohibition, they feel. It should make it illegal for sportsmen to shoot owls and hawks indiscriminately.

"The owl is the most misunderstood bird in the world," said Lewis W. Walker, a devoted friend of the wise bird of the night. Mr. Walker has made a study of owls for years and is able to prove from close personal observation that instead of being the predatory animal which destroys the birds and poultry of a neighborhood, as Minerva's owl has always been accused of being, the owl is the friend of man and of birds, too. Owls do occasionally come home with feathers sticking out of their beaks, Mr. Walker admits, but this is nothing in comparison with the protection they afford the birds of a neighborhood by their slaughter of the rodents which destroy the eggs of the birds in the nesting season in devastating quantities.

Mr. Walker, who was formerly attached to the American Museum of Natural History and is at present pursuing his studies for the rehabilitation of the owl in public esteem at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and in the neighborhood of his home at Douglas Manor, L. I., said today that fewer than the usual number of owl visitors have been seen in the vicinity of New York this winter. "I don't wonder," he said, "when it is remembered what an unfriendly reception they got here last year when thousands of snowy owls invaded New York harbor, having come down from the Arctic regions in search of food.

More Than 10,000 Killed

"More than 10,000 snowy owls were killed last year in the United States, and sportsmen had free hunting among all other species of owls and hawks, also. They cannot shoot game because of the protective laws and so they take it out on owls and hawks. Generally there is a feeling that it is a good thing to kill these birds because they are supposed to prey upon other birds and on poultry, and the farmer, fearing for his poultry, is himself given to shooting them. It may be true that an owl or hawk is an enemy to an individual bird from time to time, but he is the friend of the species."

With object of discovering for himself whether owls are the guilty devourers of poultry and free birds

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that they are accused of being, Mr. Walker himself watched a barn owl for ninety-six nights. These owls lived in the Methodist Church at Flushing, L. I. They had lived in the neighborhood for forty-five years, according to local observers, having moved from the Episcopal Church of Flushing where they first settled, when the Episcopalian got tired of screeching and movement of the birds during service and walled up the spire, to the tower of the Methodist Church.

"I kept a record of the live food brought in by this pair of owls during the ninety-six nights that I visited them," said Mr. Walker, "and I found that in this period they brought in 750 rats and mice and only two birds. The biggest catch in any one night consisted of seventeen field mice, nine Norway rats and one house mouse.

"Owls swallow their prey whole and later cough up pellets made of the fur or feathers of their quarry. I examined 100 of these pellets and found they contained eighty-six Norway rats, nineteen house mice, three short-tail shrews and a weasel."

Their Domestic Morals

And this just shows how good owls are:

"When asked whether owls were monogamous and if the ecclesiastical owls of Flushing who lived together in the same nest for forty-five years were typical of their kind, Mr. Walker said that owls, especially barn owls which do not migrate, are true to their nests and will live in one place as long as they are permitted to do so. Each one of the pair gets a new mate as the other dies off. They do not get divorced but wait for death to intervene in their behalf or otherwise, as one interprets domestic happiness. Owls do not live to the great age suggested by the forty-five-year old Flushing lease and it is probable that by the replacing of the first one mate and then another many pairs of owls had been included in the tenancy of the church tower.

"The Flushing owls which furnished the first record of barn owls breeding on Long Island, were killed about a year ago. When Mr. Walker visited the nest he found that the old birds had been killed and the eggs destroyed.

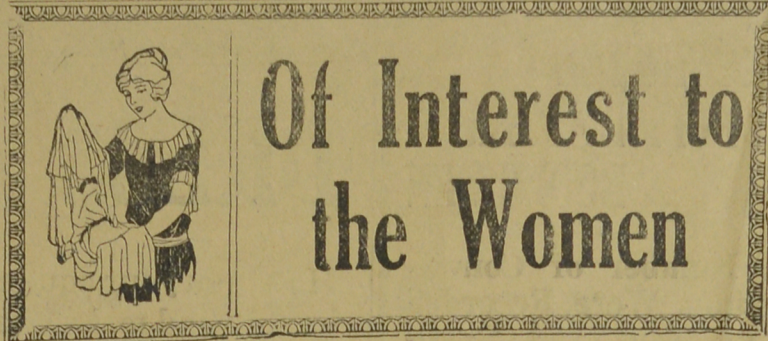
One of the favorite haunts of owls near New York city is the Moravian Cemetery on Staten Island, Mr. Walker said. Every winter a flock of long-eared owls make it their place of residence, disappearing in the spring. Advice from Staten Island are to the effect that fewer of the long-eared owls have arrived this winter, and their friends fear that somebody has been shooting them.

Had to Import Owls

"We shouldn't let this country get in the same fix as Lord Howe Island, Australia," said the naturalist.

"There the killing off of the birds of prey—owls and hawks—resulted in such a plague of rats and mice that the farmers appealed to their government and the Australian authorities sent to San Diego, Cal., for a collection of barn owls to export to Lord Howe Island. Bakersfield, Cal., had a similar experience. It was estimated that it would cost between four and five million dollars to check the mouse plague. Humbolt, Nev., had a mouse plague which was said to have cost the farmers one quarter of a million and which would never have occurred if the owls and hawks had been there in abundance. Great numbers of hawks and owls were attracted to the neighborhood and yet these farmers had not learned their lesson. They continued to shoot the birds.

"We have two or three hawks and owls, which are really bad for game birds, but there is no discrimination



## Of Interest to the Women

### BLEEDING HEARTS.

Cut bread in one fourth inch slices and then cut in heart shapes with a cookie cutter. Season cream cheese well and moisten with a little cream if necessary. Saute the bread hearts in butter until a golden brown. Spread with the cheese. Decorate around the edge with finely minced canned pimento and diagonally through the center place a long narrow strip of pimento to represent an arrow or dart. Serve as a canape or appetizer.

### LOBSTER AND GREEN PEAS.

Make a white sauce of one and one half tablespoons butter one and one half tablespoons flour and one and one half cups light cream. Season with salt and paprika and add the contents of two six ounce cans of lobster which has been left in a can of drained peas and one egg yolk slightly beaten. Add one table spoon sherry flavor and serve in grapefruit, one cup shredded blanch-heart shaped patty cases.

### GRAPEFRUIT ALMOND SALAD.

Toss lightly together one can of grapefruit, one cup shredded blanch almonds one half cup chopped dates one fourth cup chopped preserved ginger and one green pepper cut in rings. Use French dressing made of grapefruit juice instead of vinegar. Serve in lettuce nests and garnish with tiny hearts out of canned pimento.

### RAISIN AND TOMATO BUTTER.

1 quart can tomatos  
1 package seeded raisins  
3 cups sugar  
1 level teaspoon ground ginger  
2 level teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1 level teaspoon salt

on the part of sportsmen or other enemies of the birds of prey. The goshawk, for instance, is really a bad bird where poultry is concerned and the State of Connecticut offers a bounty for these hawks. So far this winter seventy-seven hawks have been turned in for bounty. But it isn't probable that the men who pay the bounty distinguish between the different species of hawks, and they are probably paying it out for sparrow hawks and broad wing hawks. In Cape May, N. J., where hawks following down the sea and the river converge, 400 broad wing hawks were killed in one day. Yeh broad winged hawks are more insectivorous than the robin, living on a diet that is 60 per cent. insects and 40 per cent. rodents and not disturbing the poultry at all."

The prohibition of the pole traps, if it goes through in New Jersey Legislature, will prevent a bird that pauses to rest on top of a pole from being caught to suffer a lingering death, Mr. Walker said. Not only owls and hawks, but sometimes song birds are caught this way.

Considering the huge volume of advice on the subject which is available at all times free gratis, that benefactor with a \$195,500 offer for a cure for common colds ought to do well.

### DO YOU BELCH GAS BEFORE OR AFTER MEALS?

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Mash the tomatoes through a strainer (discarding only the seeds) put on fire and boil slowly until half the quantity remains; then add the raisins which have been washed, dried and put through food chopper; add sugar, salt and spices and boil forty to forty-five minutes, stirring quite often or until quite thick. Much depends on the kind of tomatoes one uses. This amount makes six glasses.

### DESCRIBES WORK OF DR. TOTHILL

(Continued from Page Two.)

of the few infested trees known to the local staff. One effect of the campaign is that trees in the area defoliated in 1916 and later have now acquired a full head of new leaves, and are again producing copra that will soon come up to the original value of \$50,000 per annum. "Another interesting fact is that the island of Viti Levu is now available for the first time in history for the growing of coconut trees on a commercial scale and a planting campaign is being inaugurated. Perhaps the most important result is that the threat of destruction to an industry of vital importance to the welfare of the colony has been removed."

Concluding his letter, Dr. Tothill mentions that the Empire Marketing Board plans to present an exhibit illustrating the important work carried on in Fiji at the Toronto Exhibition in 1928, something which will be of interest for Fredericton people to see if they visit that exhibition.

R. P. GORHAM.

Fredericton, N. B.,

February 9th, 1928.

### Assessment Notice

The Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of Fredericton hereby require all persons liable to be rated for the year 1928 forthwith to furnish to the Assessors true statements of all their Personal Estate and Income, which is assessable under the City of Fredericton Assessment Act, 1926, and true statements of wages or salaries paid to employees, and hereby give notice that blank forms on which such statements may be furnished, may be obtained at the office of the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath and filed in said office on or before the 15th day of February, 1928. Dated this 12th day of January, 1928.

PETER FARRELL,  
Chairman of the Board of  
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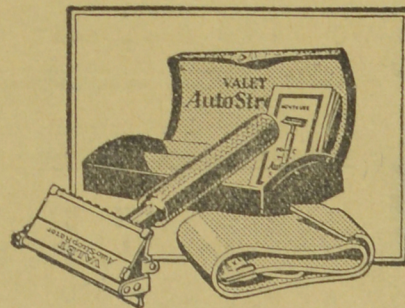
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