

on the ground. The hawk is a bird of the air, and so has a large, strong wing. Furthermore, it must be able to turn quickly in the air, so its tail,



MARSH HAWK.

which is the rudder of this aerial craft, is large, strong and mobile. Contrast with the sinuous course of the hawk the straight course of the tailless duck or sharp-tailed grouse. As the hawk sweeps in great circles above the meadows its far-seeing eye catches the slightest movement of a field mouse. When prey is sighted, the bird literally drops from the sky, and, with its sharp curved talons strikes death to the unfortunate victim. With its strong curved bill it then proceeds to tear and devour. The hawk is a bird of the day; it has excellent sight and its eyes

are set on either side of the head so that no enemy may steal up unawares, but its hearing is not remarkable.

Now contrast with it the owl, the bird of the night. It is also strong of wing, possesses a fair sized bill, sharp curved talons (the third or outer toe being reversible), and a powerful curved beak. But since it goes a-hunting at night it has very large eyes in order that it may receive all the light possible. These eyes are set in front and both focus on the same object, thus making a clearer image. The eyes cannot be rolled, but change in direction is obtained by the movement of the neck. No enemies are feared from behind since it is dark. The eye has a thin lid which may be drawn over it during the day when the light is



SCREECH OWL.

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strong. The ears are very keen indeed since the bird depends largely on the sense of hearing to determine the location of its prey. The feathers are par