

What does the word "flammulated" mean? Webster was afraid to put it in his dictionary. Somebody must have seen this little owl and coined a word that applied to him in some way. Flammulated must pertain to "flame" in some way.

① In the summer & feeding
time, at moonlight night
brings up the soft whine-
ing call of the screech owl
parents trying to keep track
of their dusky children. In
the late fall the whole family
are around still, and their
calls are melodious & rippling,
a sort of an eerie anticipation
of a clear cold moon & frosty
nights. Nothing is more
watching than to sit on the terrace
looking down the hill & make
out dimly a suspicious chunk
of blackness on a big fir limb.
Do strain your eyes & hold your

② Breathe to see if the black blur
moves even slightly. Then hear
that musical Whiffing & see —
not hear — a shadow ^{face in} join the
blur on the limb — soft answer-
ing chuckles of the young in the
ecstasy of swallowing a tasty
mouse. The two shadows move
dimly, one faces silently away
again, and the black bunch on
the fir limb goes to sleep till
the next course of his meal.

When older, the owl youngsters
move about more, wafting over
the dim dewy lawn which
is literally perforated with
meadow mice holes, making
believe they are hunters like their

③ parents. They are not shy
and a pair of twins fre-
quently comes & sits in the
maple trees over my head.
I turn a flashlight up and
see two petrified little forms
with round staring eyes. Then
a parent comes aged lights
by the child & there is ecstatic
gobbling. ¶ There are all the
small groups on & the night. One
who never creeps through the
dark house, opens a door
stealthily and walks out
under the moon & sits down
on the terrace wall to watch
and listen to what goes on
under the trees, on the lawn,
down on the river - or across it,

never gets a night thrill (4)
of bird voices and movements.

(12)

The flammulated screech owl, dwarf screech owl, or least screech owl is the ^{second} tiniest owl known in this country, and also the least is known about him. That is because he is a bird of dark ways as well as dark nights. He is not anxious to see you, nor be seen by you. In fact, he is ^{the} a mystery of the owl family. There are so few of them and they are so ghostly about their business that one can hardly get up a warm-hearted interest in them. Or ~~do~~ do we know that there are few of them, or many?

All at once we find that he is a native son of Oregon and good part of his tribe may have been living among us all the time, ^{They} and may have seen more moons here than the Multnomahs, the Calipooias (?), Wallulas and other early redmen. Both are soft-footed and shadowy. But one was caught in his tricks by that sure-fire bird detective, Stanley Jewett, a few years ago over in the Malheur region. He was as surprised as the bird.

The second record was a surprise also. We were visiting the Supt. Groege Benson of Malheur Lake Refuge, two or three years ago and glancing at a small framed photograph on the wall came face to face with the tiniest owl. Mr. Benson had come upon the little fellow and shot him with his picture gun. A second time the little fellow had been careless, and the evidence collected.

The first specimen of this owl ^{ever} was taken ^{in the U.S.} by Lieut. Feilner of the Smithsonian Institution at Fort Crook in California in 1860. Not until 1885 was the second California record obtained by Frank Stephens in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mts. Since then a number of records have been made in this state. On June 4, 1894, M. French Gilman took a set of two eggs of the bird at an elevation of 7500 feet on the slopes of San Gorgonio Peak and it is likely that this secretive little owl is more numerous than is known in the higher California regions.

The flammulated owl has been found nesting in the mountainous regions of Colorado and Arizona, and several sets of eggs collected. The ~~tiniest owl follows the customs of nesting of his cousin, another tiny owl, the elf owl.~~ The second tiniest owl follows the nesting customs of the first tiniest owl, the elf owl. ^{Arizona} The first is termed as sparrow size, the second hardly larger than a warbler. So far as is known

This midget owl has a pretty big name attached to him, flammulated meaning tawny. (There are also a gray phase and a red phase, the first dwindling almost entirely into grayish, the second flushing into cinnamon-rufous on face and breast. The) The general tone of the upper parts is a weathered wood-whitish brown produced by finely mottled ~~by mottled~~ and dusky. Under parts lighter, whiter or pale ashy, and all marked ~~with~~ according to one observer with "crawling insect" stripes and bars. He is sparrow size but chunkier, his horns scarcely visible, and has V-shaped rufous bars on back. His general range is ~~from~~ the mountains of western North America from southern British Columbia to Gautemala. There is also a gray phase and a red phase in this owl's family tree, the first dwindling almost entirely into grayish, the second one flushing into cinnamon-rufous on face and breast.