

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 6/18/18

"No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
- Heb. 4:13



This is the rufous, or red phase of an eastern screech owl, although most screech owls are grey. It's hard to believe that such a loud screeching sound could originate from such a small bird (they only grow to be about the size of a pint jar) but it's true. Their unmistakable cries can be heard for quite a distance at night. Although often heard, they are seldom seen. The reason is how well they are camouflaged. When I was photographing this particular bird, I stopped for a second to reposition my tripod and then had a hard time finding the owl again, even though he was hiding in plain sight. Suffice it to say, the camouflage works. Even though we humans are not blessed with a God-given appearance that allows us to hide easily, it certainly doesn't stop us from trying. Most of us are quite adept at hiding what we don't want the rest of the world to see. What others see is what we want them to see. Our secret lives and hidden vices largely go undiscovered, even to those closest to us. But what others don't see God sees very clearly. There is no hiding from God. And that is, or should be, a very sobering fact. Imagine how we would feel if every thought and every action was projected on a screen for all to see. When an actor removes his mask, then the audience knows what he really looks like. God, however, does not need to wait for us to remove our masks. He knows even now who we really are. And the solemn thing is, we will have to give account for all that lies behind our masks. Christians will be forgiven for all that we try to hide, but an account will still take place. What we are to strive for now is that amid all the garbage that will be uncovered on that day, there will also be things that greatly please our Lord, things that were done in secret that advanced His kingdom and honored His name. All that is hidden will eventually be revealed. Make every effort now so that God will be glorified by some of what He sees. - John