Snowy Owl, a New Species for Alabama.—The following clipping, taken from the Charleston, S. C., 'News and Courier' of December 24, 1931, reprinting an item from the old 'Charleston Courier' of December 24, 1831, seems sufficient grounds for including the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) in the avifauna of the state of Alabama:—"A beautiful White Owl was recently taken near Selma, Alabama, the length of its wings when expanded was five feet. It was presented to the Museum of the University of Alabama, as a rare specimen of American ornithology."

While it is certainly not a recommended practice to base important records on unscientific, newspaper citations, it seems justifiable to do so in the present instance, because (1) confusion seems to be limited, by the words "White Owl," to but two species, the Barn Owl and the Snowy Owl; and (2) the definite dimension of "five feet" for the wing spread, when compared with accepted measurements published by present-day ornithologists, positively eliminates the Barn Owl.

The necessarily slow schedule of the mails of those old days, places the date of capture of the specimen as not later than the first week of December, 1831.—HELEN M. EDWARDS, *Fairhope, Ala.*

Blue Jay Feeding on Stoneflies.—Relatively few passerine birds have been recorded feeding on the insect order Plecoptera. It seems worthy of note to place on record an observation the writer made on March 18, 1932. While attempting to collect a pair of Blue Jays, near Ithaca, N. Y., attention was drawn to the behavior of several of these birds feeding on the snow, along a small stream. Two were collected and their stomachs examined, after the conventional skins were made. The contents revealed remains of innumerable stoneflies (*Capnia vernalis*) which were crawling in large numbers from the stream as recently transformed imagos. The stomachs likewise contained a small amount of sand, in each instance, while one had parts of an acorn. A foot of snow covered the ground at this time.—W. J. HAMILTON, JR., *Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

Long-billed Marsh Wrens Wintering near Toledo, Ohio.—Recent observations have resulted in the discovery that the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*), although listed only as a summer resident in northwestern Ohio, is at least an occasional, if not a somewhat common, winter resident in the extensive cattail marshes bordering on the southwest shores of Lake Erie.

During the past six years, I have obtained five records of Long-billed Marsh Wrens wintering in the Erie marsh, situated at the extreme southeastern part of Michigan bordering on Lake Erie; and in the Little Cedar Point Marsh in Ohio, almost directly across Maumee Bay southeast of the Erie marsh. Both of these marshes are within ten miles of the Toledo city limits. Three of these records, Feb. 4, 1928, Feb. 3, 1929, and Jan. 22, 1932, were obtained at the Erie marsh, and the others, Dec. 20, 1930 and Dec. 26, 1931, at the Little Cedar Point marsh. The last two individuals were either heard or seen on many subsequent field trips.

Only in the cattail marshes, both *Typha latifolia* and *T. angustifolia*, have these shy and secretive wrens been found. The first one I found was discovered accidently while I was "squeaking" at a Song Sparrow. Wondering if others could be called by this means, I tried other places. All of my other winter records were obtained by "squeaking" or by an imitation of the Screech Owl's call.

Having selected a likely looking patch of marsh, the observer "squeaks" or "screeches" for a few minutes. If the wren's scolding notes are not heard, another favorable looking locality is tried. Obviously, only a small portion of an extensive marsh can be covered in this manner on an ordinary half day's field trip, and in all probability, nearby wrens which are in the vicinity do not always answer to the calls.

When the small size and shyness of the Long-billed Marsh Wren are considered, and the acres of cattails with their innumerable hiding places are borne in mind, it is remarkable that any individual is found. So, it seems very probable that this species winters in greater numbers than my records would indicate.—Louis W. Campbell, *Toledo, Ohio.*

Early Nesting of Bluebird and Mockingbird.—On February 29, 1932, I obtained a nest with three Bluebird eggs. The nest was built in an old coffee pot which was hanging on the side of a barn. Upon blowing the eggs, I found that they were only beginning to incubate.

Due to the extremely warm weather throughout February, it is no wonder that the birds got a little tangled in their nesting dates and that the extremely cold weather which followed caught many of them with nests and eggs to protect. On March 4, 1932, I discovered a Mockingbird's nest that had not been completed. For three days I watched with interest the construction of this nest, and on the third day I became a little alarmed for the welfare of the newly constructed home. The temperature was steadily falling and snow was predicted. Nevertheless work went right ahead, and on March 7, in spite of ferezing weather, the bird laid. On March 8, the temperature again went below freezing, and again the bird laid. The following day we awoke to find the ground covered with snow and a temperature of 31° F. That evening I visited the nest and found three eggs. After waiting ten days, I examined the eggs and found them cracked with ants eating the contents. Even though this perverse bird refused to incubate, I consider the fact that she laid in such weather worthy of note.—Bernard H. Stevenson, *Waynesboro, Ga.*

The American Pipit at Glen Helen, Yellow Springs, Ohio.—Abnormally early spring weather accounted for the appearance of the American Pipit at Glen Helen, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio on March 8, 1932.

Had it not been for a period of bitterly cold weather from March 5 to 10 these erratic migrants would have gone unnoticed. A group of five was discovered along an unfrozen stream in the limestone gorge of Glen Helen.