

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 accidentally 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 freezing 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.

They were all in winter plumage. The grayish-brown back and buffy breast made the birds inconspicuous against the dull greenish-brown of the algae-covered rocks in the stream in which they fed. One apparently did not have the usual white outer tail feathers.

The Pipits spent most of their time feeding in the half-inch of water that trickled over a series of receding rock ledges below a small waterfall. At other times they followed the cress-lined edge of the main stream or occasionally walked belly-deep across the twenty-foot wide stream, now and then pausing momentarily to perch on some exposed stick or rock. Their tracks were profuse in the snow along the edge of the stream and from them could be told the unusual length of the hind toe and toe-nail.

With the exception of an inch and a half earth worm which I saw one pick up on the bank of the stream all other food seemed to be taken directly from the stream or from tiny pools and pockets of water on the rock ledges. It probably consisted largely of caddis-fly larvae since the tiny nets of these swift-water aquatic insects were common in the cascading stream.

While the band of five Pipits stayed in an area of about twenty-five yards along each side of the stream, they were never seen together—usually there would be two or three on each side and when one would come within five to twelve feet of another a chase would occur. This "pursuit" flight was always accompanied by their low call note "tsee-tsee." Which bird gave it I do not know. Several times they alighted on the dry steep glen-side but they would soon walk down to the water. Only twice did I see them perch above the ground and then only a few inches above it on a fallen branch.

Three of the birds had left by March 10 and none were observed later except one on March 14.—LOUIS B. KALTER, 535 Belmont Park, Dayton, Ohio.

Nesting of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Charleston, S. C.—

The spread of the range of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) to the southward has been a matter of considerable interest to many. Though fairly well established in the Carolinas, the species has confined itself to a great degree to the Piedmont sections of both states, not appearing on the coast except as a rare winter visitor, and showing an extreme shyness which is utterly at variance to its habits elsewhere. The writer has kept a close watch on the status of the Starling in the Low Country of South Carolina, and, since the time it was first noted at "Dixie" Plantation on February 20, 1922 by Ellison A. Williams of Charleston, until the spring of 1929, when it was first discovered nesting at the McLeod Plantation on James Island, by the owner, William McLeod, the species has been, and still is, a very rare and erratic visitor.

About the middle of April, 1932, Mr. Edward A. Simons noted a few birds on the Battery in Charleston and Mr. E. A. Williams, on investigating, found a pair carrying nesting material to a hole high up on a telephone pole.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.