

copulatory behavior in the House Sparrow—as can at times even a lifeless mounted specimen. If the cowbird was an inexperienced immature in first winter dress (not distinguishable in the field from an adult), its acceptance of contact from a different species is not too surprising in a parasitic bird, which might well have been reared by House Sparrows, or some superficially similar passerines.

Observations on Effects of Cold Weather on Nesting Common Egrets.

—Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) wintered in the Bird City sanctuary at Avery Island, Louisiana, during the winter of 1957-58 and appeared to be nesting in late January and early February. On February 12, 1958, it snowed at Avery Island for the first time in a number of years and southern Louisiana recorded the heaviest snowfall since 1899. The temperature dropped to 22°F the nights of February 12th and 13th (see Table 1) and the snow persisted throughout the 13th and into the 14th.

TABLE 1
MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES—AVERY ISLAND, LA.
FEBRUARY, 1958

Date	Maximum (F.)	Minimum (F.)
February 1-2	60	32
February 3	54	35
February 4	60	40
February 5	67	60
February 6	68	45
February 7	68	30
February 8-9	59	35
February 10	40	30
February 11	40	30
February 12	35	22
February 13	45	22
February 14	55	40
February 15-16	55	32
February 17	45	32
February 18	44	34
February 19	47	40
February 20	60	40
February 21	65	43
February 22-23	59	54
February 24	65	50
February 25	60	49
February 26	70	55
February 27	70	50
February 28	73	45

On February 15, the writer visited the Common Egret nesting area to determine the status of the nesting. The egrets seem to prefer the cypress trees near the center of the pond and two man-made nesting platforms (Platforms 1 and 2) in the immediate vicinity of the cypress trees. As nesting sites in the cypress trees and on Platforms 1 and 2 are occupied, later arrivals spread out on three platforms out in open water (Platforms 3, 4 and 5). On February 15, egrets were incubating on nests in the cypress trees and on Platforms 1 and 2. There were 9 nests with eggs on Platform 5 and 5 partially completed nests on Platform 3; however, no birds were in attendance on these platforms. Nest and egg counts were made

in all areas. Sparse foliage on the cypress trees and the design of the platforms permitted an exact nest count although, as noted below, exact egg counts were not possible in all nests in the cypress trees. Nests and eggs were counted as follows:

Location	No. nests with eggs	No. eggs per nest				Total eggs
		1	2	3	4	
Platform 1	32	2	3	20	7	96
Platform 2	22	1	3	10	8	69
Platform 5	9	3	3	1	2	20
Cypress Trees	11			11 est.		33 est.
	<u>74</u>					<u>218</u>

In addition to the above, six eggs were counted out of nests (in some instances several feet from a nest) caught in the brush covering the top of the platforms. There were two dead birds on Platform 5.

The nesting area was revisited at intervals of four to seven days during the balance of February and early March. Nest and egg counts on February 19 were as follows:

Location	No. nests with eggs	No. eggs per nest				Total eggs
		1	2	3	4	
Platform 1	31		2	22	7	98
Platform 2	17	1	1	9	6	54
Platform 5	0					0
Cypress Trees	11			3 est.		33 est.
	<u>59</u>					<u>185</u>

Although the counts on Platforms 1 and 2 on this visit showed only a slight reduction in nests and eggs, indications were that new eggs had been laid in some old nests and a few new starts had been made, offsetting a slightly larger loss than is indicated by the figures. Ten eggs were counted out of nests. On Platform 5, no nests contained eggs, the nine nests previously recorded having apparently been abandoned sometime prior to February 15 and the eggs subsequently destroyed. One nest had a piece of egg in it.

On the days following February 19, the weather warmed considerably, and on February 21 a number of egrets were seen engaged in nesting activity on Platforms 3 and 5.

Counts were not made on the visit of February 26; however, all nests were inspected and no young had hatched. There was little indication of additional loss or abandonment and considerable evidence of new nesting activity.

On March 4, young were found in thirteen nests on Platforms 1 and 2, having hatched following the visit of February 26. Young were seen in several nests in the cypress trees. Allowing an incubation period of 23 or 24 days (A. C. Bent, 1926. Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 135, p. 138), the eggs from which these young hatched were probably laid between February 2 and February 9.

On March 9, young were counted in 27 nests on Platforms 1 and 2. New nesting had continued, principally on Platform 5.

The nesting areas were not visited again after March 9; however, visual inspections from the bank of the pond indicated that the nesting population continued to increase throughout the summer.

These observations appear to indicate that sub-freezing weather is disrupting to nesting Common Egrets and may cause abandonment of the nests if nesting has not progressed sufficiently. However, Common Egret eggs can apparently survive periods of freezing temperatures if the parent birds remain in attendance.—EDWARD M. SIMMONS, *Avery Island, Louisiana*.

Cory's Shearwater at Palm Beach, Florida.—A Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus diomedea borealis*) was found dead on the beach of Phipp's Ocean Park on November 14, 1958, by Mrs. Roberta Knight. The bird was not collected until that night by Mrs. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cointepoix, and the writer. When it was first found, the specimen was in a fair state of preservation, according to Mrs. Knight; however when it was taken off the beach later, its condition was not satisfactory for a skin. The head and feet were placed in formaldehyde and deposited with the Smithsonian Institution, where Dr. Alexander Wetmore confirmed the identification.

The length of the bird in the flesh was $19\frac{5}{8}$ inches and the wing-span was $43\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tips of the primaries were devoid of feather barbs, and a few small pieces of asphalt were in the wing feathers.

This specimen appears to be the first record for Florida. The previous southernmost United States record given by the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) is from South Carolina.—H. P. LANGRIDGE, *1421 W. Lantana Ave., Lantana, Fla.*

Little Egret Banded in Spain Taken in Trinidad.—On January 13, 1957, Mr. C. L. Williams collected a white heron in the Caroni Swamp, Trinidad, West Indies, which bore a band "H 7414 Aranzadi Museo, San Sebastian, España." Sr. J. A. Valverde advised (*in litt.*) that the bird had been banded as a nestling by Sr. Orbe y Ancona at Coto Doñana, Huelva, Spain, on July 24, 1956. Sr. Valverde first wrote that the banded nestling had been a Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, but he advised later that further check indicated it was a Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*. As the specimen had not been sent to Spain, it seemed desirable to remove any question by forwarding it (preserved as a mummy) to the American Museum of Natural History, where an adequate comparative series was available. Mr. Eugene Eisenmann confirms that the bird is *Egretta garzetta garzetta* in first winter dress, with the following measurements: wing (flat), 255 mm.; tarsus, 101 mm.; culmen, 86 mm. This appears to be only the second report of the species from the New World; the earlier record, also a recent one, is of a bird taken in Newfoundland, May 8, 1954 (A.O.U. Check-list: 49, 1957).

Trinidad is some 4000 miles across the Atlantic from the Spanish locality where this bird was banded less than six months prior to its collection. According to Guy Mountfort's "Wild Paradise," p. 102-103, 1958 (Houghton Mifflin Co.), in the spring of 1956 the Little Egret was the most numerous heron in the Coto Doñana, with about 3000 nesting pairs, the next most numerous breeding heron being the Cattle Egret. He also writes that by 1956, several thousand nestling herons had been banded in Spain and that most of the returns have been of Little Egrets; the previous most westerly record of a banded individual being from the Canary