

the voyage to New York City and also during the seven days' trip from there to Albany.

It is known that the capacity for temperature regulation is imperfect in the lower mammals as the monotremes and marsupials. Sutherland reports the temperature of the wombat to be 34.1° C. Martin also suggests that the power of marsupials to regulate body temperature is less than that of higher mammals.

Might it not be possible that these small opossums of the genus *Marmosa*, kept in a subnormal temperature, were unable to maintain their body temperature and became lethargic or partially so with the consequent reduction of metabolic activities? Under such conditions no food taking would occur and with the metabolic rate greatly lowered the animals could survive extended periods of adversity. This would be still more plausible for the immature individuals as the young of many mammals do not have the regulation of body temperature well established at first.

It would be extremely interesting to make some observations on the variations in body temperature of this particular genus of opossums and also to find out their behavior when placed in an environment with the temperature as low as 57° F. It happens that this temperature approaches very closely to the ideal hibernating temperature of mammals exhibiting this phenomenon, with which I have had some experience.

OTIS WADE

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

CONCERNING OWL ATTACKS

IN a note in *SCIENCE* for November 1, 1929, attention was called to the attacking of persons in Morgantown, West Virginia, by screech-owls, and a vague inquiry was made as to whether others had had a similar experience.

It was not long before the inquiry was answered so emphatically as to leave no doubt as to the fairly common occurrence of this experience.

Several answers appeared in forthcoming issues of *SCIENCE*, and the author received personal letters from more than a dozen individuals scattered from Oregon and Texas to Ontario, Canada. Several of the writers were college professors, two were physicians, one was an eminent chemist, one was apparently a lumberman and the occupations of the others could not be determined from their letters.

Several mentioned specifically the screech-owl as the attacking bird; one said the attack was by a great horned owl; one bird was apparently the snowy owl, and a few writers did not name the owl.

In most cases the attack was at dusk, though one was at dawn and one on a moonlight night.

Five of the writers said the owls had nests or young

near by, and gave that as the cause of the attack. One writer thought the owl mistook the hair on the head of the person attacked for some mammal on which it preyed.

Several persons said that the owl swooped down close to the head, snapping its beak but not actually touching the one attacked.

A majority of the correspondents reported the victim struck with claws or beak and sometimes painfully injured. In one case a lumber-jack was said to have "carried a sore neck for a number of months." In another case a Louisiana Negro lost an eye by the attack of an owl.

In a certain part of one town policemen were much annoyed by the attacks of owls.

The following list will show the wide distribution of the persons reporting these owl attacks:

C. F. Adams, M.D., Indianapolis, Indiana; W. B. Anderson, Corvallis, Oregon; Hugh Bahlert, Pound, Wisconsin; W. W. Chapman, Mississippi; Watt Chung, New York; W. P. Flint, Illinois; L. S. Frierson, Shreveport, Louisiana; Forry R. Getz, Forest Hills, New Jersey; Arthur Goshorn, Winterset, Iowa; M. S. Green, New York City; R. T. Hall, American Museum of Natural History; H. Hapeman, M.D., Minden, Nebraska; Dr. A. G. Ingalls, Seneca Lake, New York; Chas. Macnamara, Arnprior, Ontario; G. W. Martin, Iowa City, Iowa; L. S. Owens, Lebanon, Ohio; Chas. L. Reese, Wilmington, Delaware; Maurice Ricker, Woodside, New York; Thos. B. Rogers, Orange, New Jersey; Clarence E. Shaner, Westminster, Maryland; A. Sion, Kyle, Texas; O. M. Smith, Stillwater, Oklahoma; T. C. Stephens, Sioux City, Iowa.

ALBERT M. REESE

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

HOMO SAPIENS, VAR. CHICAGOIENSIS

THE following excerpt from *Variety*, the theatrical trade paper, of July 30, may be of interest to the readers of *SCIENCE*:

What Chi Goes For

Chicago, June 29.

Astrology fortune telling joints are popping up along Michigan avenue.

All are getting a terrific play. Fad started with the opening of the Adler Planetarium on the lake front in Grant Park a few weeks ago. Star peeking house is now drawing 3,000 a day, with about half the number, as soon as they hit the boulevard again, hot-footing it to the star mitt readers, who are charging from \$1 to \$10 for connecting up the stars the folks saw with their destiny.

Play has become so strong local picture house chain is working desperately on a plan to bring some of the star gazers into the lobbies of their nearby houses, where it is planned to spot star teller.

RAMSAY SPILLMAN