

'Two Vanishing Game Birds.'—Under this title¹ Dr. A. K. Fisher has made a strong plea for the protection of the Woodcock and the Wood Duck, at the same time pointing out the causes of their "impending extinction," and suggesting means for their preservation. "These game birds," he says, "differ materially in habits as well as in other particulars, but the conditions affecting their increase are very similar. As winter approaches they leave their summer homes, where they have been scattered over broad areas and gradually work southward until finally they become more or less concentrated in their respective haunts in the Southern States. Within the confines of this winter home, where no protection is afforded them, they are slaughtered in large numbers; and as the Southern States place little restriction on their export, they are shipped North in quantities limited mainly by the demands of the market or the endurance of the gunners. Not only are the birds subjected to this exterminating treatment throughout the winter, but when the season of migration comes and they return to their summer homes they fare little better; for a majority of the States in which they are found permit them to be shot while nesting or at the time when the young are unable to properly care for themselves. In view of these facts it is not surprising that the Woodcock, with its limited distribution and moderate fecundity, is very rapidly passing away, and that the Wood Duck has disappeared or become rare in many places where it was once common."

The distribution, habits, and natural enemies of these species and the part man plays in their destruction are considered, and 'preventive measures' are suggested for checking their decrease. In the case of the Woodcock, steps should be taken "to abolish all spring and summer shooting," and their protection in the Southern States in winter by the enactment and enforcement of proper laws for their protection, including a short open season, restriction of the size of the bag, and the prohibition of shipment for sale. If in addition there could be "a universal close season covering two or three years, the restoration of this noble bird would be assured."

The decline of the Wood Duck is considered in much the same manner, and similar measures are urged for its rehabilitation.

The paper is illustrated with drawings of each species by Mr. L. A. Fuertes, by a map showing the distribution of the Woodcock, and by a diagram showing the open and close seasons for each bird in the States and Territories, and the Canadian Provinces the species respectively inhabit. From these diagrams it appears that the Woodcock has no protection at any season in Delaware, Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska, nor in any of the Southern States except South Carolina, and Alabama, where

¹ Two Vanishing Game Birds: the Woodcock and the Wood Duck. By A. K. Fisher, Ornithologist, Biological Survey. Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1901, pp. 447-458, pll. lxiii, lxiv. Also separate.

the bird is protected from April or May till October. For the Wood Duck there is a close season of greater or less length in Canada, in all of the Northern States except Kansas, in all of the Pacific States, but in only five of the thirteen Southern States. In a number of the Northern States and in several of the Provinces of Canada, the Wood Duck is protected from spring shooting. "If spring shooting," says Dr. Fisher, "be abolished the Wood Duck will gradually return to its old haunts and by degrees reestablish itself—to the joy and satisfaction of all lovers of nature."—J. A. A.

Job's 'Among the Water-Fowl.'—The title¹ of this interesting work very fully indicates its general character, that of a 'popular narrative' from personal study of the birds in their haunts, with photographs of the birds and their nests from nature, obtained often at the expense of considerable hardship and risk. The matter is arranged under five subheadings, as follows: 'Part I. The Submerged Tenth: Grebes and Loons.' 'Part II. Modern Cliff-Dwellers: Gannets, Guillemots, Auks, Puffins, Kittiwakes, etc.' 'Part III. Ocean Wanderers: Shearwaters, Jaegers or Skuas, Petrels, Phalaropes.' 'Part IV. The White-winged Fleet: Gulls and Terns.' 'Part V. Wild Fowl of Wild Fowl: Ducks and Geese.'

As is well known to a wide circle of ornithologists, Mr. Job is indefatigable in his pursuit of the wild fowl, and patient almost beyond measure in his work with the camera under varied and trying conditions, and his liberal mead of success, both as an observer and in bird photography has been well earned. His field of work includes the lakes and marshes of North Dakota, the islands of the St. Lawrence, and the off-shore waters of the Atlantic coast, from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia, besides the ordinary fields and inland waters of the northeastern States and southeastern Canada. He here lays before the reader in the form of a simple narrative the results of his years of exploration and experience with the varied tribe of wild water fowl, from Grebes to Ducks, Geese and Phalaropes. Aside from its interest to the bird-lover, his 'Among the Water-Fowl' is an important contribution to the life-histories of many species none too well-known, and the most difficult to investigate, owing to the inaccessibility of their haunts, and the special preparation and long journeys necessary to reach them and successfully cultivate their acquaintance.

¹Among the Water-Fowl: Observations, Adventure, Photography. A popular Narrative Account of the Water-Fowl as found in the Northern and Middle States and Lower Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. By Herbert K. Job. Profusely illustrated by photographs from Nature, mostly by the Author. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. 1902. Square 8vo, pp. xxi + 224, with numerous half-tone cuts and plates. Price, \$1.35 net.