

Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in England and Wales in the Spring of 1907.—The third Report of the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club on the spring migration of birds into England and Wales forms Volume XXII of the British Ornithologists' Club, bears date October, 1908, and relates to the spring migration of 1907,¹ with also some notes on the fall migration of 1906. The number of species 'scheduled' is 33, the arrivals of 30 of which are indicated by maps for each. There is a "summary of the records" for 65 additional species, for which in most instances the observations are few. The notes on migratory movements during the autumn of 1906 relate to about 25 species.

This third report, so far as it relates to the spring immigration of 1907, "does not differ much from its predecessors, and, as before, deals solely with the movements of the year, no attempt having been made to compare it with the previous year's records." The season was somewhat exceptional, "for though the latter part of March was brilliantly fine, wintry weather was experienced throughout the whole of April. . . . Stragglers of various species appeared at a somewhat early date; but the main body of birds arrived later than usual, and the immigration was at its height during the early part of May. As a result of this the 'rushes' or waves of immigrants were less marked and the actual period was in many cases considerably prolonged." As in previous Reports, a daily account is given showing the condition of the weather and the arrivals of birds, in parallel columns. The report closes with a list of observers, about 200 in number, and their location by counties.—J. A. A.

The Heath Hen.²—The Report of the Chairman (Dr. George W. Field) of the Massachusetts Commissioners on Fisheries and Game for the year 1907, gives the present status of the bird in its last foothold on the island of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Besides a brief summary of its former range and early widespread extirpation, there are several pages devoted to an account of its present status and habits as personally observed by Dr. Field and his assistant Mr. Gates in May, 1906, and recommendations of measures to be taken to ensure its protection and future increase.

¹ Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1907: Also Notes on the migratory movements during the Autumn of 1906. By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club == Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Vol. XX, October, 1908. Pp. 202, with 30 maps.

The previous reports of the Committee are, 1st, for 1905, 2d, for 1906, and form respectively volumes, XVII and XX of the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologist's Club, noticed in this journal as follows: Auk, XXIII, Oct. 1906, p. 472; *ibid.*, XXIV, July, 1907, p. 357.

² A Report upon the Eastern Pinnated Grouse or Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus cupido*). An anonymous repaged reprint of 13 pages, from the Forty-second Annual Report of the Massachusetts Commissioners on Fisheries and Game for the year ending December 31, 1907.

On January 11, 1908, the number of birds existing on the island "was not less than 55 nor more than 60." While it appears to be most at home in the scrub oak and pitch pine barrens, it is believed that it could be naturalized once more in almost any section of the State. Fortunately it has the protection "of the best public opinion in the island," and with the thorough precautions for its preservation and increase adopted by the game commissioners of Massachusetts, under a special act of the legislature providing for it a reservation of 1,000 acres of unimproved lands on Martha's Vineyard, its future increase seems assured. The Report closes with a list of subscribers to a fund for the purchase of land for a reservation and for guarding such reservation from forest fires, the total sum here reported amounting to \$2,420. Aside from the economic and practical bearing of the report, it is a valuable contribution to the life history of this interesting species.— J. A. A.

Woodruff on Causes of the Scarcity of the Ruffed Grouse.¹— The marked scarcity of the Ruffed Grouse in the northeastern States in 1907 has been attributed to various causes; from Dr. Woodruff's investigations it seems to have been due to a combination of a number of untoward conditions. These are primarily "(1) The unusual abundance of foxes, and, particularly, goshawks during the winter of 1906-1907. (2) The extremely cold, wet, and late spring of 1907. (3) An epidemic of some disease or parasite, or both, just which we cannot now determine." He considers the cold, wet, late spring to have been unquestionably the most serious, and that to this was indirectly due the destruction of most of the adult females and young, through the impairment of their vitality so that they readily succumbed to disease or the attacks of parasites.— J. A. A.

Forbush on the Economic Value of Birds to Agriculture.— For a number of years the writings of Mr. Forbush have been among the most important contributions to the subject of economic ornithology. They have consisted mainly of reports prepared by him as ornithologist to the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, and published by the State. Of several of these² a second edition, revised to June, 1908, has recently been issued, showing that their importance is duly recognized by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. As they were duly noticed in these pages when first published, a further account of them in the present connection is unnecessary, although some new matter is added and other changes introduced in these revised editions.— J. A. A.

¹ The Ruffed Grouse. A Study of the Causes of its Scarcity in 1907. By E. Seymour Woodruff. Pp. 22. (A repaged reprint from the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Forest, Fish and Game Commission of the State of New York.)

² (1) Two Years with the Birds on a Farm. By Edward Howe Forbush. Second edition, 1908, pp. 44, with 8 illustrations. (2) Birds as Protectors of Orchards, Third edition, June 1908, pp. 19. (3) Special Report of the Decrease of Certain Birds, and its Causes with Suggestions for Bird Protection. Second edition, June, 1908, pp. 118.