

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.