

Carter's 'Shooting in Early Days.'—In a neatly printed little pamphlet issued privately by Mr. Charles Morland Carter he describes his experiences as a gunner beginning about the year 1864. His early reminiscences deal with New England and are full of association with William Brewster and Ruthven Deane, two of his boyhood acquaintances. Later come his experiences in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and other portions of the middle West.

Besides the interest that attaches to a personal narrative of this kind there is much of value to the ornithologist in the accounts of the Quail and Woodcock shooting of those times and the several mentions of Passenger Pigeons, especially of a trap shooting contest at Concord Junction in 1872, in which Deane and Brewster participated and in which the birds were 200 Passenger Pigeons purchased for the occasion.

If other sportsmen whose experiences date back to the sixties, would follow Mr. Carter's example we should have preserved many valuable records of the early abundance of game birds which otherwise will be lost forever.—W. S.

Recent Publications on Conservation and Education.—The April 1920, number of the 'Nature Study Review'¹ is a bird-study number containing many short articles on various species. The most noteworthy contribution is by Anna B. Comstock: 'Suggestions for a Graded Course in Bird Study' which will be welcome to many teachers. The suggestion is made of collecting one or more old nests and mounting them in cardboard boxes beside which may be mounted a standard outline drawing of the species colored by the student. The use of colored drawings instead of mounted birds or skins will soon become a necessity as the supply of old birds in museums, etc., becomes exhausted.

Mr. John H. Wallace's 'Alabama Bird-day Book'² is as usual an admirable assistant to teachers engaged in conducting Bird-Day exercises. This year's issue contains a special article by E. H. Forbush on the migration of North American birds into the countries to the south of us and the importance of securing co-operation there for their protection as has been accomplished with Canada on the north.

Miss Althea R. Sherman has an interesting 'Historical Sketch of the Park Region about McGregor, Iowa, and Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin'³ in 'Iowa Conservation' Vol. III. Nos. 1 and 2, in which she advocates the establishment of a park or reservation on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, opposite the one secured by Senator Robt. Glenn at the mouth of the Wisconsin River.

¹ Shooting in the Early Days, from 1863 to 1919. By Charles Morland Carter, St. Joseph, Missouri. December, 1919. Printed for Private Distribution. Grogg Printing Co., pp. 1-38.

² Nature Study Review. Ithaca, N. Y.

³ Alabama Bird-Day Book, Dept. of Game and Fish. Montgomery, Alabama.

³ Iowa Conservation, Vol. III.

'Fins, Feathers and Fur'⁴ for March, 1920 contains an appeal from Harry J. LaDue for the extermination of "vermin" by the sportsmen. Everything which may destroy game is today "vermin," but the destruction of all this wild life may so upset the balance of nature that the game will go too before we realize the complicated interrelation between wild creatures with which we are interfering. Such work should be done only after most careful consideration by those who understand the problem. The statement that "the Crow is now everywhere regarded as one of the great menaces to song and game birds" is hardly supported by the reports. It is destructive locally to certain crops and should be dealt with accordingly, but in other places and other seasons it is unquestionably beneficial. The hue and cry against the Crow which has lately spread over the country seems to have been inspired by certain manufacturers of guns and ammunition more than by anyone else. 'Blue-bird'⁵ in its March issue takes up the cudgels for the Crow just as earnestly as the previous journal denounces him.

'California Fish and Game'⁶ tells of the arrest in that state of violators of the Migratory Bird Treaty all of whom were fined substantial amounts. There is also an account of the efforts to rid San Diego of the English Sparrow which promises to be successful as the number now remaining is estimated not to be over 100. The Illinois Audubon Society has published another of its attractive 'Bulletins'⁷ for the spring of 1920, which contains an admirable commentary on the State game laws, and many notes and reports on bird study.

A Fascicle of Papers on British Economic Ornithology.—All of the articles here reviewed are by Dr. Walter E. Collinge who is giving more attention to economic ornithology than any other of his countrymen. Two of the papers were published in the new 'Journal of the Wild Bird Investigation Society,' Dr. Collinge, editor, which is devoted to the preservation and to all other interests of British birds. One¹ of these is general in nature, calling attention to the close relationship of birds to the welfare of agriculture, the greater attention paid to this matter in other countries and the desirability of doing more work on the subject in Great Britain. The Rook and the Pheasant are discussed in some detail as examples, respectively, of destructive and beneficial species, and a tabulation is given of the principal food items of 22 species of British birds which shows "that the sum total of their activities is distinctly in favor of the farmer and fruit-grower." The paper concludes by pointing out the great importance at the present time of aiding British agriculture

⁴ Minnesota Game and Fish Dept., St. Paul, Minn.

⁵ Bluebird, 1010 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

⁶ California Game and Fish Commission, Sacramento, Cal.

⁷ Illinois Audubon Society, 1649 Otis Building, Chicago, Ill.

¹ Wild Birds: Their Relation to the Farm and the Farmer. Op. cit. Vol. 1, No. 2, March, 1920.