

**Jack Miner and the Birds.**—Probably everyone interested in wild fowl has heard of Jack Miner, former hunter and market gunner, who more recently has become famous by attracting migrant Canada Geese to his pond at Kingsville, Ontario, and has obtained notable results in bird banding of Ducks and Geese.

In 1923 he published in book form the account of his methods with the Geese and a brief review of his life and his interest in wild fowl and song birds, and we now have before us an American edition<sup>1</sup> of this work which was originally privately published in Canada. The little volume makes no pretense to literary style but tells the story of its author's work in his own way and in his own words.

We learn that in 1904 he conceived the idea of making the passing Geese come to rest at his home by constructing a pond in which he kept a few wing-clipped Canada Geese which were fed regularly. It was four years before any of the migrating birds decoyed to the pond but in 1908 eleven stopped, next year 32 and since then large numbers yearly pause at Jack Miner's pond on their flights and here they are fed and protected and become almost as tame as domestic Geese to the delight of numbers of visitors who come there to see them.

Many of the Geese are now trapped in a pen every year and banded and Ducks hatched from wild Duck's eggs and reared by Miner are similarly marked before they depart for the South. These have in time brought many returns and put Jack Miner in communication with persons in all parts of the country. Most of the south-bound Geese that he has heard from are shot in North Carolina and Virginia while all of the north-bound birds go to the shores of Hudson Bay, but the Duck records are much more widely spread and returns are recorded from all of the States from Louisiana to the Dakotas and from Florida to New York as well as west to Alberta.

There are many things in this little volume besides the Duck and Geese studies to interest the bird student and conservationist. There are accounts of the Bobwhite, Pheasant, Robin, Bluebird, Swallow family and Woodpeckers, giving the author's views on their protection and value, and chapters on the natural enemies of birds, Wild Duck hunting etc. The book is well printed and illustrated by numerous half-tones from photographs.

Jack Miner's story makes interesting reading and is at the same time a valuable contribution to our knowledge of water fowl and the possibilities of attracting wild birds.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'**—This great work is now rapidly approaching completion and since our last notice two parts<sup>2</sup> have appeared nearly completing the Honey-eaters and leaving only about fifty species to be treated. A new race of *Myzantha obscura*, *M. o. perplexa*

<sup>1</sup> Jack Miner and the Birds and Some Things I Know About Nature. By Jack Miner. Chicago. The Riley & Lee Co. 1925, pp. 1-176. Price \$2.50.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. XII, pt. 1, March 3; pt. 2, May 11, 1925.