

McAtee on the Relation of Birds to Woodlots.—Mr. McAtee has prepared for the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station an excellent report¹ on the relation of birds to wood lots. While freely acknowledging his indebtedness for basic data on New York birds to the well-known work by Prof. Eaton on the birds of the state, and to the files of the U. S. Biological Survey for data on the food habits of the species, Mr. McAtee's familiarity with all phases of economic ornithology and with the life history and habits of most of the insect pests has enabled him to produce an exceedingly valuable work not only to those interested in conditions as found in New York but to citizens of other states as well. He considers the 'Kinds of Birds Frequenting Woodlots,' 'Seasonal Changes in Woodlot Bird Life,' 'Woodlot Birds of New York and their Economic Relations,' etc., the last topic cited occupying most of the report, and covering in detail the food habits of birds as they affect trees. Under the 'Role of Birds in Woodlot Ecology' the author mentions the Sapsucker as the only species that directly damages trees. Several species eat buds but buds are produced in such abundance that the injury is not appreciable while these same species benefit the trees by destroying noxious insects. Woodpeckers carry spores of destructive fungous diseases but vastly more are carried by the wind and other agencies. Some birds too devour insects which themselves are beneficial in destroying noxious species but here again, the birds also eat the noxious insects, which as our author says is analagous to spraying insect infected plants when good and bad insects are both destroyed but the result is beneficial.

Birds that carry fruit to the fence rows and unconsciously plant trees as Robins, Cedarbirds and Flickers, are directly beneficial, as are also seed storing birds whose stores are often scattered and produce trees. Mice are very destructive to young trees and shrubs and Hawks and Owls which prey on mice are beneficial. Mr. McAtee also points out that rabbits are far more injurious than mice but as they are "game" they must not be destroyed! A good illustration of the growing idea of sportsmen that the conservation of wild life should be conducted solely from the standpoint of the gunner. Everything that destroys game today—except man, is "vermin" according to their idea and should be destroyed while game is to be carefully protected!

Mr. McAtee's report is illustrated by some original photographs and plates from previous publications of the Biological Survey and the Roosevelt Station, from drawings by Fuertes, Sawyer, Kalmbach, Horsfall and Sim.—W. S.

Saunders on Birds of Central New York Marshes.—Another valuable and timely report² by the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Sta-

¹ The Relation of Birds to Wood Lots in New York State. By W. L. McAtee. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, Syracuse, N. Y. Vol. 4, No. 1, October, 1926, pp. 1-154, figs. 1-22, pls. 1-4. Price \$1.00.

² The Summer Birds of Central New York Marshes. By Aretas A. Saunders. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station

tion is on the 'Birds of Central New York Marshes' with some added notes on birds of Allegany Park, by Aretas A. Saunders. Here as elsewhere the finest marshes have been drained and what was once a wonderful haunt of marsh birds and other forms of wild life is now just a little more farming land. He shows that undrained marsh land properly cared for can be made exceedingly profitable as a reservation for muskrats as well as a haven for migrant Ducks and pleads that provision be made for saving what marsh land remains before fur-bearing animals and game species have been entirely exterminated there.

The main part of Mr. Saunders' report consists of accounts of the habits of the marsh inhabiting birds, notably their varied positions when engaged in the several activities of life, a subject that has been very much neglected and which our author has made still more interesting by a series of outline sketches of the various species in numerous characteristic positions. He has also much to say on voice, nesting, feeding, etc. In fact he presents us with excellent life histories of a much neglected group of birds. Besides his own drawings and photographs there are two color plates from paintings by E. J. Sawyer, illustrating the characteristic species of New York marsh birds. The notes on Allegany Park birds have to do largely with the revival of song in various species in late summer, another topic upon which we have all too little information.—W. S.

McLellan on the Birds of Sinaloa and Nayarit.—Miss M. E. McLellan, assistant curator of birds in the California Academy, spent September and October, 1925, in the northwestern coast district of Mexico collecting for the Academy and, in the paper¹ before us, presents a report on her material. She collected at Labrados about twenty-five miles southeast of Mazatlan and at San Blas in the province of Nayarit (Tepic) and spent a few days on Maria Madre one of the Tres Marias Islands.

An annotated list of 151 species seen or obtained is given, including the description of one new form *Rallus nayaritensis* (p. 9) based on a single immature specimen. Dr. Oberholser we are told regards the bird as a subspecies of *R. longirostris* and from the evidence we think he is correct, though the author prefers to regard it as representing a distinct species. The advisability of describing a new form, upon such unsatisfactory material is decidedly open to question.

The list is a valuable contribution and adds to our knowledge of the distribution of a number of species although the region has been worked by many ornithologists in the past.—W. S.

Syracuse, N. Y., Vol. 3, No. 3, September 1926, pp. 329-475. figs. 88-145, pls. 8-19.

Additional Notes on the Summer Birds of Allegany State Park. By Aretas A. Saunders. Ibid. pp. 476-497, figs. 146-152. Price of entire number, \$1.00.

¹ Notes on Birds of Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico, in the Fall of 1925. By M. E. McLellan, Assistant Curator, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences, Fourth Series, Vol. XVI, No. 1, pp. 1-51, 3 text-figures. January 31, 1927.