

fowl shooting in New England in this handsomely printed little volume,¹ which has been privately printed in a limited edition and is being sold for the benefit of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association.

After a preliminary account of Duck and Goose shooting in eastern Massachusetts, the nature of shooting stands and the relative abundance of the species of wild fowl, there follows a list of all of the shooting stands concerning which the author has been able to obtain information.

The country under consideration is covered with scattered ponds, each of which supports one or more shooting stands, so that the total number runs up to about 230, of which 180 were occupied in 1928; some history of each is given with extracts from shooting records when available. Some of these date back as far as 1876.

In his introduction Dr. Phillips tells us that the total number of Geese shot per year in eastern Massachusetts averages about 4200 (2500-8500) and of Black Duck about 10,000. Live Goose decoys are used to a large extent, probably at the present time some 5000-6000, and a slightly smaller number of live Black Duck decoys.

This little volume will interest a large number of sportsmen who have shot over this region, and will appeal also to the lovers of good books as it is beautifully printed and attractively gotten up with a frontispiece of Canada Geese coming into a pond.—W. S.

Ten Year Index to 'The Auk.'—This indispensable publication² has at last appeared and should be secured by everyone who possesses a set of 'The Auk' or who desires to ascertain what has been published on any bird or group of birds, or on the birds of any country or state. No one who has not made use of the two previous 'Auk' indexes can form any idea of the usefulness of these volumes. Suppose, for instance, that we are interested in the bird life of Florida, we turn to "Florida" in the 'Index' and find listed, under authors, not only all of the papers on Florida birds that have appeared in the 'The Auk' during the ten years covered by the 'Index,' but also references to all other papers on the subject which have been reviewed or noticed in the pages of the magazine. We thus are at once in touch with practically the entire literature of the subject for the ten-year period.

The 'Index' follows closely the plan of the two preceding 'Indices' which together covered the period from 1876 to 1910, and brings the compilation up to 1920. As we are now close to the end of another ten-year period it

¹ Shooting Stands of Eastern Massachusetts. By John C. Phillips. Privately printed. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1929. pp. 1-158. (A limited number for sale by the Mass. Fish and Game Asso., 41 Mount Vernon St., Boston, Mass.)

² Ten Year Index to The Auk, Volumes XXVIII-XXXVII—1911-1920. Prepared by a Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. Edited by T. S. Palmer and M. T. Cooke. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Lancaster, Pa. 1929. pp. i-xviii + 1-339. Price, cloth \$5.00, paper, \$4.00 (W. L. MacAtee, 200 Cedar St., Cherrydale, Va.)

is time that plans for another 'Index' should be underway and with the admirable work of the present Committee before us, we cannot but hope that some of the members will be willing to take up this work and associate with themselves others who will profit by their experience and be able to carry on the work in the future.

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Secretary of the Union, generously consented to act as Chairman of the present Committee, a position which he filled most ably in connection with the previous 'Index' (1901-1910) and to his admirable management we are indebted for the excellence of the present work.

Miss May Thacher Cooke, as co-editor, performed many of the tedious duties of comparing and checking the numerous references, while those who verified reference slips, or indexed volumes first hand, are Alexander Wetmore, E. R. Kalmbach, B. H. Swales, A. H. Howell, F. C. Lincoln, W. L. McAtee, J. H. Riley, C. S. Sperry, C. R. Shoemaker and Harry Harris. Dr. C. W. Richmond checked up the synonymy of foreign species while the final copying of the slips was done by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Bryant and Miss Bryant. Acknowledgement is made to many others for assistance of various kinds so that the 'Index' is distinctly a piece of A. O. U. "community" work. To the Biological Survey acknowledgement is made for the loan of their index slips for eight of the ten volumes which saved the writing of many cards.

An important addition to the 'Index' proper is a 'Biographical Index,' prepared by the chairman, containing the names of all members of the Union who died during the period covered, as well as of all other ornithologists whose deaths have been announced in 'The Auk.' Dates of birth, death and references to biographical sketches, as well as full names, are included.

Members of the Union should express their appreciation of the tremendous labor that the Committee has performed in preparing this 'Index' by securing a copy and thus too, in part at least, reimburse the Society for the expense involved and make possible the continuance of the compilation for future ten-year periods.—W. S.

Mrs. Bready's 'The European Starling on his Westward Way.'—In the foreword to this little book,¹ Dr. Marcus Benjamin refers entirely to the author's study of the songs of the Starling, which constitute Part II of the work and form an original contribution to the study of bird music. There is in this connection a technical discussion of the Starling's "music," a comparison of it with man's music and a consideration of its imitative character; also of the evolution of bird music from primitive forms to the modern scale.

¹ The European Starling on his Western Way (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). Concerning his Economic Value, his Varied Song, his Place among Birds and Three Characteristics. By Marcia Brownell Bready. With a Foreword by Marcus Benjamin, Ph.D., Sc. D., LL. D. Editor United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. The Knickerbocker Press New York. 1929. pp. 1-141 + 1 Plate. Price \$2.00.