

RECENT LITERATURE.

Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States.'—The third and concluding volume of this notable work,¹ covering the Passerine birds from the Sparrows to the Thrushes, is before us, and probably no better praise can be awarded it than to say that it fully maintains the high standard set by its predecessors. While all will regret that the author and artist who began this great undertaking could not have lived to see its completion, we owe a debt of gratitude to their successors who have so carefully carried out their ideas.

The text was, as a matter of fact, practically finished before Mr. Forbush's death and only the account of the Wild Turkey and of four species which have been added to the fauna since the work was started, remained to be prepared by Dr. May. It is no small task, however, to edit and put such a volume through the press and this Dr. May has done with absolute fidelity to the plan laid down by his predecessor. Of the plates Mr. Fuertes had prepared only seven of those required for this volume, leaving twenty-four to be done and these have been admirably executed by Major Brooks.

The book as completed stands out as the leading modern work on the birds of the Eastern United States and satisfactorily covers a wide range of country outside of New England, of which it primarily treats.

The importance of the aid that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has given to bird study and bird protection by making such a work available to all, at an almost nominal price, cannot be overestimated. All too frequently the stock of a Government publication is exhausted almost as soon as it appears and it can then be obtained only from second hand dealers at exorbitant prices, but the 'Birds of Massachusetts' will apparently be available for a long time to come as we understand that the two earlier volumes have already had several printings.

Dr. May has added, as a preface to volume three, an excellent and sympathetic biography of Mr. Forbush to whom no finer memorial could have been erected than this notable "bird book" which he conceived and so admirably carried practically to completion.—W. S.

¹ *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States.* By Edward Howe Forbush. Part III Land Birds from Sparrows to Thrushes. Illustrated with Colored Plates from Drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Allan Brooks and Figures and Cuts from Drawings and Photographs. With a Biographical Sketch of Edward Howe Forbush by John Richard May. Issued by authority of the Legislature, 1929. Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Dr. Arthur W. Gilbert Commissioner. Price \$5.00. (Vols. I and II may still be obtained at \$5.00 each. All orders should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Room 118, State House, Boston.) Pp. 1-xlviii + 1-466; pl. 63-93; frontispiece portrait; fig. 68-97; 17 distributional maps and 23 text figures.