

MASSACHUSETTS' NEW STATE ORNITHOLOGIST

JOHN B. MAY, M. D., of Cohasset, Massachusetts, has recently been appointed to the office of State Ornithologist, or, officially, Director of the Division of Ornithology, Department of Agriculture, succeeding Edward Howe Forbush, who retired on his seventieth birthday after a long and brilliant record of service to the Commonwealth.

For some years Dr. May has been an assistant to Mr. Forbush, devoting much of his time to active work on the "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," the third and last volume of which is nearing completion.

The new State Ornithologist was a practicing physician for some years, having received his degree from the Boston University School of Medicine. He has served the Newton Hospital as a member of its staff.

During recent years he has conducted two large camps, for boys and girls respectively, at Ashland, New Hampshire. The work there served to increase his love for wild life and he began an extensive study of birds, a subject in which he specialized for years and which culminated in his recent appointment.

Dr. May is a Councilor of The Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England, Inc., and of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association. He has long been a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and the Boston Society of Natural History. He is an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union and a Trustee of the South Shore Nature Club.

Bird-banding interested him from its beginning in this country, and in 1924 he operated Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin's station at Thomasville, Georgia. His home in Cohasset has been a banding station for some years.

Of late, he has contributed the notes on the "Boston Region" for the bi-monthly, or seasonal, review of bird-life in the United States, published in *Bird-Lore*.

The biographical sketch of Mr. Forbush recently issued by the Boston Society of Natural History was from his pen, and occasional papers of his authorship have appeared in *The Auk*, *Bird-Lore*, and the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*. From the lecture platform he has delivered many talks of a popular nature in an effort to stimulate and interest people in the study and conservation of wild life.

Thus his appointment to the office of State Ornithologist is well deserved, and he enters it equipped to continue the work conducted so well by his predecessor.

CHARLES B. FLOYD.



JOHN B. MAY, M. D.