

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 edition¹ 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 parts² 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*

¹ 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.

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

is described from Victoria (p. 50) and in the list of races "Victoria" in inadvertently given as the author of the name!

On April 6, 1925, there was also published the first part of a 'Bibliography of Australian Birds' of which another part will follow. This like the 'Check List' is uniform with the large work and is regarded as a part of it. The introduction consists of biographical sketches with portraits of Charles Daviès Sherborn and Charles Wallace Richmond two of the leading figures in ornithological bibliography to whom the author has been under continued obligations.

The bibliography itself, covering the letters A-N, is wonderfully full of historical and biographical data, exact dates of publication etc. etc., and constitutes one of the most important portions of this work from the standpoint of the general ornithologist, as many of the publications listed and described deal with birds of other parts of the world beside Australia. So valuable to the systematic worker will this 'Bibliography' prove that it is to be hoped that, in the interest of science, arrangements will be made by which it may be obtained separately. In any event, we are under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Mathews for working out all the information which it contains and publishing it.—W. S.

Balsac on the Ornithology of the Northern Sahara.—M. H. Heim de Balsac, who has been publishing in the 'Revue Francaise de Ornithologie' an account of his expedition into the northern portion of the Sahara, has now issued the several installments in book form, rearranged and repaged, forming a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of the birds of north Africa. His route lay from Sfax through Maknassy and Gafsa to Tozeur, in Tunis, and from Ghardaia north to Algiers, in Algeria. The annotations are full with measurements of important specimens and French vernaculars for each species, while the introduction contains many observations on the fauna and flora of the region.—W. S.

Townsend's 'Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes.'—Dr. Charles Wendell Townsend has published a new edition of his 'Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes,'¹ a series of delightful sketches of the natural history of the Massachusetts coast already reviewed in 'The Auk' for 1913 (p. 593).

The present volume seems to differ in no respect from the original except in the use of heavier text paper and the addition of a short introduction by Ralph Hoffman. Dr. Townsend has delighted many nature lovers with his writings and the present attractive edition of this earlier work will be welcome to those who possess his later publications.—W. S.

Skinner's 'Birds of the Yellowstone National Park.'—This admirable work² published as one of the Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletins of

¹ Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes. By Charles Wendell Townsend. L. C. Page & Company, 53 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. Large 12 mo illustrated with numerous half-tones from photographs. \$3.50.

² The Birds of Yellowstone National Park. By Milton P. Skinner. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, Syracuse, N. Y. Volume 3, No. 1. February, 1925, pp. 1-192. Price \$1.00.