

**McAtee on the Relation of Birds to Woodlots.**—Mr. McAtee has prepared for the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station an excellent report<sup>1</sup> 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 report<sup>2</sup> by the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Sta-

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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