

as well as a list of the bird songs which have been "borrowed" by this famous "mocker" in its vocal performance.

The book is beautifully gotten up, with a colored frontispiece and fourteen excellently reproduced photographs.—W. S.

**Bowen on the Distribution of African Birds.**—In a paper published in 1932 (see *Auk*, 1932, p. 501) Mr. Bowen discussed the life zones of Africa advancing the theory that they were primarily dependent upon temperature rather than upon rainfall as had been claimed. In the present contribution<sup>1</sup> he elaborates his discussion with many maps illustrating minimum and maximum temperatures for the various parts of the continent as well as rainfall, plant and bird distribution.

He concludes that the importance of the so-called West African Sub-region with its heavy precipitation has been somewhat exaggerated; that a Subtropical and Temperate Zone are recognizable; and that the majority of the Ethiopian birds are distributed wholly within the bounds of the life zones that he has delineated. His paper is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of zoogeography.—W. S.

**Duck Decline in the Northwest.**<sup>2</sup>—This is a detailed account of a tour of inspection by an anonymous agent of the 'More Game in America Foundation' through the prairie Duck breeding region of North Dakota, Montana, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, in July 1933.

"On the whole," says the report, "the duck breeding situation presented very gloomy aspects: water conditions were very bad; a number of large lakes have dried up completely or have been reduced to fractions of their former size . . . and of small water areas more than 80% have been claimed by agriculture and of the remainder about one-half were dry."

It is considered, however, that there are great possibilities for improving breeding grounds in agricultural areas but immediate action is necessary. The key to the situation seems to lie in the region north of the grain area, where the majority of various species now breed and this must be surveyed and the relative importance of its various sections determined.

The report is fully illustrated and should be studied by those interested in Duck preservation for as stated in the 'foreword' "the elimination of wild fowling as a field sport in America is not an impossibility . . . and has been approaching for the past twenty years but the pace has increased tremendously in the past three. Despite all enactments the birds have continued to decrease."—W. S.

**Bennitt's Missouri 'Check-List.'**<sup>3</sup>—How many more expensively illustrated state bird books will be published remains to be seen but there will always be need for such excellent state "lists" as are exemplified by Prof. Bennitt's for the state of Missouri.

<sup>1</sup> African Bird Distribution in Relation to Temperature and Rainfall. By W. Wedgwood Bowen, *Ecology*, XIV, No. 3, July, 1933. Pp. 247-271.

<sup>2</sup> The Duck Decline in the Northwest. In two parts, "More Game in America," 500 Fifth Ave., New York City.

<sup>3</sup> Check-List of the Birds of Missouri. By Rudolf Bennitt, Ph.D., Univ. of Missouri Studies, VII, No. 3, July 1, 1932. Pp. 1-81.