

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.

He lists 396 species and subspecies with 57 more in the hypothetical list of forms likely to occur. No less than 27 are here reported in Missouri for the first time.

The character of occurrence of each bird is given in symbols such as "CSR" for common summer resident but as the remainder of the line is almost always left blank, this statement could easily have been printed in full with no extra expense and saved the user of the list the annoyance of consulting the key to the symbols.

All important records are given in detail and foot notes explain many questionable occurrences. The nomenclature follows the A. O. U. Check-List and the A. O. U. numbers are quoted before the names, which is rather confusing as they are now completely out of sequence and are only retained for the use of egg collectors who have used them in marking many thousands of specimens. Many important corrections to ranges given in the 'Check-List' are presented and this, it seems to us, is one of the most important functions of a good state list.

Prof. Bennitt is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work, well conceived and well printed.—W. S.

**DuMont's 'List of the Birds of Iowa.'**—This is another excellent up to date state list<sup>1</sup> taking the place of R. M. Anderson's 'Birds of Iowa' published nearly thirty years ago. Omitting synonymy and original references, which are readily available in more general works, the author presents the status of each species in Iowa, with abundant brief extracts from previous publications and original data on the occurrence of the rare species or on the distribution of others.

There is no attempt at life histories or descriptions the work being simply a faunal list of the sort that serves well as a work of reference and as the basis for future A. O. U. Check-Lists.

References in the text are made to authors by name and date and a bibliography furnishes the further details. There is a hypothetical list of species likely to occur in the state and a list of thirteen species of Anderson's list not accepted for one reason or another. The list contains 364 species or subspecies as against 354 in Anderson's publication.

Mr. DuMont has done an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

**Greene's 'Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia, Area.'**<sup>2</sup>—Georgia is one of the few states without a satisfactory bird list so that such a paper as Mr. Greene has published and Prof. Burleigh's recent summary of the birds of the State College Campus at Athens (see *Auk*, 1927, p. 457) are particularly welcome.

In the present list 208 species and subspecies are given with 24 additional

---

<sup>1</sup> A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa. By Philip A. DuMont. University of Iowa Studies in Nat. Hist. XV, No. 5. 1933. [Received Dec. 1, 1933 but cover dated Feb. 1, 1934] Pp. 1-171. Price \$1.00.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia, Area, Distribution, Migration and Nesting. By Earle R. Greene Bull. No. 2, Georgia Society of Naturalists. Printed by the Society, Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 1933. Pp. 1-46. Price \$1.00.