

the recent widely distributed pamphlet entitled "More Game Birds by Controlling Their Natural Enemies." The power of propaganda, in this case utilizing man's instinctive urge "to go out and kill something" (with double objective, the game in season and then the assumed enemies of game out of season) is again illustrated. The continual publicity issuing from high places, which employs such phrases as "predatory animals" and "enemies of game," promotes and renews this natural tendency of mankind to destroy whatever is imagined to be injurious to his immediate interests. Fortunately, in the present instance, certain Cooper Club members find themselves in position to expend personal effort toward stemming the local wave of anti-vermin activity. Among the conservationists in west-central California who are right now putting their convictions into practice, by bringing the facts and proper interpretations of natural history before the sportsmen's and other organizations concerned, are Mr. C. B. Lastreto, Mr. Laidlaw Williams, Mr. Dudley S. DeGroot, and Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell. It is to be hoped that some if not all of the announced "prize contests" will be given up.—J.G.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

Edward L. Caum has summarized in a paper entitled "The Exotic Birds of Hawaii" (Occas. Papers Bishop Mus., 10(9), 1933, 55 pp.) the results of attempts at bird introduction in Hawaii. About 90 species have been tried, of which 32 are established, and 19 because of too recent importation or other factors are of uncertain status; the others failed. The risks of bird introduction are discussed, but the author seems in agreement with other residents that Hawaii needs more birds and should try for them regardless of risks. The species successfully established are about half game birds, doves, and pigeons, and the remainder a variety of passerine birds. One of them, *Munia nisoria*, "does considerable damage to green rice"; *Acridotheres tristis*, while frequently a nuisance, is deemed to do more good than harm; *Passer domesticus* "is, if anything, rather useful"; and *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* has not proved destructive. The publication is a valuable record and of great interest for its bearing on a highly controversial subject.—W. L. McATEE.

Das Sterbende Moor, by Otto Ehrhart-Dachan (Munich, Drei Masken Verlag, 1930, 152 pp.), is a poignantly beautiful tale of a wild and lovely moor where birds and beasts and water things found a safe haven among woods and streams. With masterly skill and fidelity to nature the author interprets the "humble happiness" of the fishes, telling of the lives of an ancient pike and a mighty carp. Thousands of birds—herons, storks, ducks, birds of prey and countless others—nested in the hidden swamps undisturbed by man. But man has so little love for beauty and for his harmless fellow-creatures that this sanctuary was made desolate through drainage and deforestation. It is a book that moves one to love of the gentle wild folk and to pity of their sad plight, as homeless and persecuted, they seek in vain a refuge on the earth.—MARGARET M. NICE.

VALENTIN HAECKER ON RACIAL DIFFERENTIATION (Haecker, Valentin. Phänanalytische Untersuchungen über Hochgebirgs- und Tieflandsvögel, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Schilddrüse. Zeitschrift für induktive Abstammungslehre, 43, 1926, pp. 121-170, 2 pls., 2 charts, numerous line drawings).—With the voice of more or less depreciative criticism rather too often raised against the honorable profession of avian systematics as practised, and with the near-despair of the scientific systematist himself over the problem of extracting adequate data from limited and protean series which are jumbles of ages, sexes, plumages, localities and conditions, the suggestion of a new angle is very welcome, especially when it lays emphasis on cause rather than effect and brings reassuring evidence that our orthodox racial differentiations are more than "skin deep." Hidden as it has been in an unfamiliar German periodical, the work of the late Valentin Haecker on the crows of Germany and Switzerland in particular, and of the world in general, is far too little known. Haecker, who died in 1927, had since 1888 combined with a multitude of other zoological studies a persistent interest in ornithological problems, notably in the fields of the mechanism of song-production, feather color, and color races. Görnitz began his work on climate and color races, and Glasewald his work on the melanins, as dissertations under the