

RECENT LITERATURE

Der Vogelzug, Vol. 3, No. 2, April, 1932. This number opens with an article by E. Schüz on early-summer migrations of Starlings and Lapwings. Results of banding work on Starlings reveal several interesting facts. Thus, Starlings breeding in Latvia linger from July to September in the region from East Prussia to Schleswig-Holstein, and occasionally remain there until October. Young Starlings raised in East Prussia leave the nest in the middle of June and wander about well into July in Danzig, Pommerania, Schleswig-Holstein, and Oldenburg, and during the true autumn migration to England, Holland, Belgium, and northern France. East Baltic Starlings migrate to such a degree that birds that remain in their birthplace are considered exceptional. The Starlings that invade East Prussia in June and July come from southern Finland, Esthonia, and Latvia.

Data on the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) indicate that it, too, indulges in early-summer wandering, previous to true migration in the autumn. This is also true of the Curlew (*Numenius arquatus*).

Groebbels records observations on the food of migrant birds at Helgoland. This paper is a sketchy, preliminary one and merely emphasizes the importance of nutritional changes during a time of such great physiological stress as that of migration.

Banzhaf writes on the autumn bird migration of 1931 at the "Greifswalder Oie" on the Baltic coast. He finds that westerly winds and only those between the compass-points of N.W. and S.W. (not N.N.W., etc.) favor migration. The daily flights of birds observed on this island were very considerable, on October 11th amounting to more than 10,000 birds of about twenty species. On the whole, daily flights tended to follow the long axis of the island, but often crossed it diagonally from N.N.E. to S.S.W. The different hours of the day most favored by different species of birds to begin their migrations from the island or to arrive there, are given for several forms. Annotated notes are given for a number of unusual birds seen there in 1931. The paper closes with some fragmentary notes on nocturnal migration.

Natorp contributes some reflections on the spring of 1931, dealing in a fragmentary, scattering way with a number of central European birds.

Schildmacher writes on the migration of the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*) in the North Sea area. In general, he finds that the birds time their flight with the degree of duskiens at sunrise; by mid-day only small groups are left. Poor visibility seems not to hinder migration, if the atmosphere is not too densely fogged.

In the autumn of 1931 there was a remarkable invasion of Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) in central Europe. Kùchler uses this as a basis for a summary of the recorded invasions of this species, and gives such details as are available.

Duse writes on an enormous flight of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (*Dryobates m. major*) in upper Italy in the autumn of 1931. A previous flight, in 1929, affected Denmark, Holland, and northern Germany, but did not reach Italy.

Schüz lists a number of corrections and additions of return records of banded birds to those published in the "Atlas des Vogelzugs."

Among the shorter notes are the following: the autumn migration of the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) in western Schleswig, by Emeis; the migration of the Bean-Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*) by Schüz; the first record of the Little Swamp Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) in Morocco, by Drost, etc., etc.—H. F.

Ohio Game and Song Birds in Winter. By Lawrence S. Hicks. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Columbus, Ohio, 1932.

While bird-banding finds no place in this 68-page brochure, it contains much material which should be of considerable value to all who maintain either feeding or banding stations. It is divided into six parts, under such headings as "Emergency Feeding," "Report of Winter Feeding Experiments," "Conservation and Checks upon the Increase of Birds," "Planting and Management Recommendations," a winter bird-list, and a bibliography.

As might be expected, the emphasis throughout is largely upon the upland game-birds—Bob-white, Pheasant, and Hungarian Partridge—but there are several sections dealing with song-birds and other non-game species. A list of Ohio birds with their habitat requirements is followed by an excellent list of plants recommended for planting, with the names of birds which they may attract, and these contain many items of interest to the friends of our birds.

The work is so well done that it is perhaps captious to criticise it, but when, for example, Cormorants are said to be attracted by white and yellow pond-lilies, pondweeds, etc., we feel that an error, probably typographical, has crept into the work.

What Mr. Hicks has to say about human checks on bird life may well cause thoughtful consideration. "A bird sanctuary is a sanctuary first of all against *man*—too often man, human-like, accuses everyone but himself for his own mistakes. Man is the one biggest enemy of nearly all forms of wild life under present conditions. All other living predators are of minor importance—too often conservation is thought of as something to be practised by others."—J. B. M.

Movements of Ringed Birds from Abroad to the British Islands and from the British Islands Abroad. By H. F. Witherby and E. P. Leach. Reprinted from "British Birds," Vol. XXV, Nos. 5, 7, and 9.

This very interesting paper forms a pamphlet of over sixty pages, with some thirty-two maps, showing movements of ringed birds. It brings before one very vividly the difficulties incident to bird-study in Europe—where a comparatively short journey will carry one across several international boundaries, each of these meaning also a change in language—as compared with conditions in North America, where all banding work in the United States and Canada is carried on in one language. Birds which disperse no more widely than our Massachusetts Night Herons, in Europe would be recovered perhaps from a dozen foreign countries. And the bands on "foreign" birds recovered in the British Isles need the services of a skilled linguist to trace them back to their sources.

Some of the maps are exceedingly interesting. Four types of recovery are shown on the Starling map—nestlings ringed in other countries and recovered in Great Britain in winter, birds ringed in Great Britain in winter and recovered on the Continent, Continental migrants recovered in Great Britain in winter, and birds ringed in Great Britain in winter and taken as migrants or breeding birds on the Continent. The Cuckoo "shows a remarkable eastern trend," and the Wood Warbler "a more easterly route than any other British-breeding Passeres of which we have record."

The recovery of a British-banded Lapwing in Newfoundland in December, 1927, has been recorded in the *Bulletin New England Bird-Banding Association* for April, 1928, but the interesting fact that *all* the recoveries of Kittiwakes ringed in the Farne Islands, Northumberland, have been on this side of the Atlantic, has not been published here, I

believe. Three of the five are from Newfoundland, and one each from Labrador and Davis Strait. The recent taking of a Black-headed Gull in Massachusetts lends interest to the fact that European-ringed birds of this species have been recovered in Mexico, Barbados, and the Azores. There is much more of interest in the maps and itemized records, but all those interested in the travels of individual birds should read the article in full.—J. B. M.