

such as increasing warm effluents from industry into lakes and rivers, and growing pollution from sewage and other works, are telling against trout, with their high oxygen requirements, and those who fish for them, though some of these changes may be favourable to the more numerous and socially important group of anglers for coarse fish. But all anglers alike should realise that of all predators "the angler remains the most persistent and efficient, and he would do well to remember that in his attempts to conserve his prey". He should remember it also in his general relationship with and conduct towards all the wildlife of our rivers, lakes and ponds.

HURCOMB

**Birds of the Atlantic Islands, Volume III: A History of the Birds of the Azores**, by **David Armitage Bannerman** and **W. Mary Bannerman**. Oliver & Boyd, 84s.

**Ireland's Birds**, by **Robert F. Ruttledge**. Witherby, 30s.

The final volume of the Bannermans' trilogy adds the Azores to their previous work on the Canaries and Madeira. Both text and plates, by David Reid-Henry and the late George Lodge, are well up to the high standard for accuracy set by the two preceding volumes. Besides the usual systematic lists of breeding and migratory species, there are excellent essays on the birds of the individual islands in the group, some by Colonel Jose Agostinho and other local ornithologists. One notes with regret that the house sparrow, introduced into the islands by soldiers a few years ago, shows every sign of becoming established. The Azores being well out into the Atlantic, the presence of a number of American vagrants on their list is to be expected; nobody seems to have objected that they might have had an assisted passage. This is not a book for the pocket, but no bird-watcher visiting the Azores could afford to leave it at home.

Major Ruttledge was part-author of the authoritative *Birds of Ireland*, published in 1954. In the present book he summarises and brings up-to-date the great mass of knowledge about Irish birds that has accumulated since then, especially in the annual *Irish Bird Reports*, together with essays by local specialists such as Jimmy Deane. The main part of the book, however, is a straight systematic list which will be of the greatest value to both resident and visiting bird watchers; moreover it is small and light enough to carry comfortably in a knapsack. One notes that the inhibitions which still prevent British ornithologists from accepting as genuine those American vagrants which arrived before about 1950 do not prevent Irish ones from listing the slate-coloured junco shot in Co. Clare in May, 1905.

RICHARD FITTER

**The Bird Faunas of Africa and its Islands**, by **R. E. Moreau**, Academic Press, £5.

Not many books deserve the epithet 'monumental', but here is one that does. It is built out of 20 years of field experience and intensifying study of two very different samples of Africa—the north-eastern margins of the Sahara and the forested Usambara—buttressed by contacts with (and stimulation of) every identifiable ornithologist in the Continent, and completed by 20 more years of research—the listed references comprise 386 titles, not counting the author's own very remarkable three dozen.

The presentation of this half-a-life's work is beautifully logical, and this, with the extensive use of tables to summarise the mass of data, prevents it from becoming too taxing on the digestion, despite the fact, for example, that some 800 of the 1,481 species credited to the region receive individual mention. This makes it easy to dip into or refer back to particular chapters with understanding