

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Republication in 'The Auk' of Descriptions of New North American Birds.—A Suggestion.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs: I would like to make a suggestion or two in relation to 'The Auk' as the organ of the A. O. U. One is that in future descriptions of new species or varieties of North American birds, unless originally published in 'The Auk,' be republished in that journal in the next succeeding number, either verbatim or with sufficient fullness to give the diagnostic points, habitat, etc., of the new forms. This may seem objectionable to the (comparatively) few ornithologists to whom the original descriptions are always promptly sent; but many first hear of the new forms by a brief statement in 'The Auk,' announcing the fact of their description, long after the original description appeared. Probably on an average less than two pages of each number would suffice for such a purpose, and I do not think they could be used in a more satisfactory way. I understand the reason for publishing certain descriptions in such a medium as, for instance, the 'Proceedings' of the Biological Society of Washington, but that does not make such place of publication any less inconvenient to many readers of 'The Auk.'

The second suggestion is that each new form, when described, *if recognized by the authority that is about to publish the standard list of North American birds*, be given a special number or designation by which it shall be known in check lists, indicating its position among its allies, and the official opinion of admitted authority as to its claims to recognition.

It seems to me that both these suggestions are practical and useful.

J. C. MERRILL, U. S. A.

Columbus Barracks,

Columbus Ohio. August, 1885.

NOTES AND NEWS.

As previously announced, the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in New York City, beginning Tuesday, November 17. The place of meeting will be, as previously, at the American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and 8th Avenue. In addition to the reports of Committees, and the usual routine business of such an occasion, it is hoped that a good list of scientific papers will be presented, and that the meeting will be fully attended.