

cluding the latest draft of the International Code. Among the first European ornithologists to accept the more important of these innovations, and to show a just appreciation of the principle of subspecies and trinomialism, was the author of 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna'; and it is therefore all the more to be regretted that he has gone so far beyond the original intention of the non-emendation principle as to make it a menace rather than an aid to stability in nomenclature.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

AT THE last Congress of the A. O. U., held in New York City November 13-16, 1905, the Union authorized the Committee on the Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds to prepare a new edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, with a view to its early publication. As the nomenclature of the Check-List was based on the A. O. U. Code, published twenty years ago, it was also deemed advisable to make a critical examination of the Code, with a view to amending some of its provisions, to make it meet more fully the present requirements of zoölogical nomenclature. In order to make such a revision available for use in the preparation of the new edition of the Check-List, a special committee was appointed to take up the matter with as little delay as possible, its report to be submitted to a meeting of the Council to be called specially to act upon it. The Committee appointed on the revision of the Code consists of the following: J. A. Allen (chairman), Theodore Gill, Henry W. Henshaw, Harry C. Oberholser, Wilfrid H. Osgood, Charles W. Richmond, Witmer Stone. Within a few days after the adjournment of the Congress the Committee on the Code was called to meet in Washington on Dec. 11, 1905. A four day's session was held, beginning on this date, at which all of the members were present. Several important and a considerable number of minor changes were adopted, nearly all unanimously and the others with only one or two (in one case only) dissenting votes. It is expected that a special meeting of the Council will be held in Washington about the middle of January, to receive and act upon the report of the Code Committee. A meeting of the Nomenclature Committee will immediately follow, to begin work upon the new edition of the Check-List.

In this connection it may be safe to premise that probably the forthcoming third edition of the 'Check-List' will be quite different from either of its predecessors. In these days of rapid progress in zoölogical research, twenty years is a long period, and while the classification adopted in the

present Check-List seemed fairly satisfactory in 1886, it long since ceased to represent modern views respecting avian taxonomy. The present, therefore, seems a favorable opportunity to revise the classification of the higher groups, and thus bring the Check-List once more into harmony with present knowledge of the subject. The geographical ranges of the species and subspecies will be most carefully revised, probably by a special sub-committee, and thus brought down to date. There will doubtless be also a few changes in generic names, some of which have been for some time impending.

THE FIRST annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies was held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on October 31, 1905. Twenty-seven members were present at the business meeting, held in the morning, representing Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and the District of Columbia. The afternoon session, which was open to the public, was attended by several hundred persons interested in the work of bird protection. The Treasurer's report showed the Association to be in a prosperous condition, with a bright outlook for the future. Six of the directors, whose terms had expired were reelected for the term of five years, namely: George Bird Grinnell, New York; Arthur H. Norton, Maine; H. P. Attwater, Texas; Walter J. Blakely, Missouri; Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright, Connecticut; and Mrs. Kingsmill Marrs, Florida. William L. Finley, Oregon, was elected to fill the unexpired term of Isaac N. Field, deceased. The President's report was given in abstract and ordered printed in 'Bird-Lore,' and also separately for general distribution.

At the afternoon session the principal topic of discussion was cats, in their relation to bird protection. The principal speakers were Dr. George W. Field, President of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission; Dr. T. S. Palmer, Biological Survey, Washington; Rev. William Lord, Massachusetts, and Mr. Frank M. Chapman. It seemed to be agreed that if cats could be kept at home, and their owners made responsible for them, as in the case of dogs and other domestic animals, the lives of multitudes of wild birds would be annually saved. At the close of the discussion the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That in the interests of humanity and bird protection the National Association of Audubon Societies endorses the movement to make the owners of cats responsible for their acts and welfare."

At the afternoon session Mr. William L. Finley gave an account of his experiences among the large colonies of water-birds which breed in southeastern Oregon, illustrated with lantern-slides; and Mr. Frank M. Chapman gave an illustrated talk on English bird life, based on his experiences of the past summer.

The Annual Report of the President of the Association, Mr. William Dutcher, has been published in the November-December, 1905, number of 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. VII, pp. 295-350), and occupies fifty-six pages, including a number of pertinent half-tone illustrations. As in Mr. Dutcher's

former annual reports, for sometime published in 'The Auk,' it contains much matter of permanent value as ornithological literature, aside from that relating more directly to the history of bird protection. It consists, as usual, of (1) a history of the year's work, detailing the principal results in the matters of legislation, the securing of 'reservations' for breeding bird colonies, the protection of birds through the employment of wardens, coöperation secured with foreign countries, etc.; (2) suggestions for future work; (3) abstracts from State reports; (4) list of members and contributors; (5) the Treasurer's report. It is sufficient to say here that the success that has in years past attended Mr. Dutcher's enthusiastic and well-considered efforts for bird protection has in no way declined, but with the greater power and influence and the increased means that have come to his aid through the organization and incorporation of a National Association of Audubon Societies, the work has assumed larger proportions, and become more far-reaching and aggressive. It is pleasant to note that the membership of the Association is rapidly increasing, and with it the funds available for carrying on the work, the latter having increased 250 per cent. during 1905. His report should have a wide circulation, not only among ornithologists but among philanthropists interested in whatever pertains to the preservation of wild creatures, for either their present economic and esthetic importance, or for the benefit of future generations.

MANY of the Members of the A. O. U. who attended the recent Congress in New York City, had at the close of the session a most enjoyable day at the New York Zoölogical Park, where they were cordially welcomed and entertained by Director Hornaday and his Curator of Birds, Mr. Beebe. The ornithological portion of the collections, in common with the wonderful development of this exceptionally flourishing Zoölogical Garden, has made rapid progress during the few years of its existence, in its equipment of buildings and cages as well as in the growth of the collections. The new Bird House, L-shaped, with two large exhibition halls, became available last July. One of these large halls, the Parrot Room, is 65 feet long by 50 feet wide, with a height to the peak of the roof of 36 feet. The roof being of glass insures plenty of light, and there is ample provision for fresh air. Both halls are lined with large cages, in place of the many small ones usually seen in aviaries, the use of large cases allowing several species to be exhibited together, and proving a satisfactory arrangement.

Besides the Great Flying Cage, briefly described in this journal some years ago (*Auk*, XVI, 1899, p. 96), there are nineteen large out-door enclosures for the hardier species. In the grounds devoted to birds there are, in all some eighty cages, for the most part already well stocked with birds, of great variety and gathered from all parts of the world, American species, however, very properly predominating. Many of the native wild species of the vicinity, having learned that they can here find both safety and plenty of food, have also become voluntary residents of the Park,

contributing thereby greatly to the pleasure of the many bird-lovers who visit the Park for purposes of study.

A paper by Curator Beebe, giving some account of the birds in the Park aviaries, their peculiarities and behavior, and various interesting experiences in their management, which he kindly presented at the A. O. U. Congress, was a good introduction for the members to their subsequent visit, and contributed to the interest with which they later made their acquaintance with the birds themselves in the Garden.

JOHN W. AUDUBON'S 'Western Journal: 1849-1850,' of his notable overland journey from Texas through Mexico and Arizona to California, is being brought out in one volume, 8vo, with map, portrait, and plates, under the competent editorship of Prof. Frank H. Hodder of the University of Kansas, by the Arthur H. Clark Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It will also contain a biographical memoir by his daughter, Miss Maria R. Audubon, who has been able to avail herself of a large amount of material not accessible to any other biographer. The plates illustrating the 'Journal' are from the author's original sketches. Price, \$3.00 net.

A NEW work on oölogy by George Krause, entitled 'Oologia universalis palaearectica,' has been announced by Fritz Lehmann of Stuttgart, to appear in 150 Parts, quarto, each part to consist of two or three plates with the text, the publication to be completed if possible in two years. The subscription price is 1s. 6d. per part. The text will be printed in both English and German, so as to give the work greater availability. A plate will be given, wherever possible, for each species, so as to present illustrations of all the principal variations, as shown in the sample plate of the eggs of the European Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), where sixteen very distinct color phases are depicted. The author, who is an oölogist of distinction, is also the artist and designer of the plates, and thus will be able to bring to the work the critical eye of the expert. The text will be 'schematic' and brief, giving in a few lines the breeding range, time of hatching, size and number of the eggs, etc., leaving the excellent plates to tell the tale of the color variations.

DURING the last three years the American Museum of Natural History has employed Mr. J. H. Batty to collect for it natural history material in Mexico. His collections consist mainly of birds and mammals, but include many reptiles, some insects and crustaceans, and about 600 photographic negatives. The mammals include large series of the larger species, particularly of carnivores and deer, the felines, from ocelots to jaguars, being especially well represented. The birds number nearly 5000 skins besides several hundreds nests and eggs. The areas quite exhaustively worked include northwestern Durango, southern Sinaloa, and the States of Jalisco and Colima. A report on the southern Sinaloa collection of birds has already been prepared and published in the Museum 'Bulletin,' and an account of the Durango birds is ready for publication, both being by Mr. Waldron DeWitt Miller, assistant in ornithology at the Museum.