

The supplementary expedition which will shortly be in the field is expected to gather much additional information on the birds of this region for incorporation in the final report of the Roosevelt Expedition.— W. S.

Todd on New Neotropical Birds.¹— In two recent papers Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd describes twenty-two new forms of neotropical birds. Eleven of these are from Colombia, seven from Bolivia, two from Argentina and one each from Venezuela and the Isle of Pines. The descriptions are very brief, but where size is used as a differential character measurements of the type specimens are always given.— W. S.

Forbush on The Domestic Cat.²— In 'Notes and News' of 'The Auk,' 1914, p. 145, attention was called to the seriousness of the cat problem and in the two years that have elapsed since then the destruction of wild birds, especially nestlings, by stray cats and uncontrolled pets has brought the question squarely before thousands of bird students, who have so carefully watched and protected broods of young in the nest, only to see them fall prey to the neighbor's pet cat. Mr. Forbush's timely 'bulletin' covers all phases of this subject—the history and characteristics of the cat; numbers of cats, food of cats, economic value and means of controlling the cat.

His evidence seems to show pretty conclusively that traps are a far better check on rats and mice than cats are. This reduces the excuses for keeping cats to the desire for a pet or companion, and for such purposes the public should compel the cat owners to have their pets licensed and kept strictly on their own property. This is insisted on in the case of dogs and the sooner it is done with cats the better. The constantly increasing army of bird lovers who will not tolerate roving cats will find a mine of information in Mr. Forbush's report which can be spread broadcast with profit.— W. S.

The Official List of Generic Names.³— Systematic Zoölogists will welcome any action that makes for uniformity and stability in nomenclature, and consequently will heartily endorse the attempt of the International Commission to establish an "official" list of genera. The plan is to invite advisory committees in various branches of zoölogy to submit lists of generic names which they agree are valid under the Code and which

¹ Preliminary Diagnoses of Apparently New South American Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. XXVIII, pp. 79–82. April 13, 1915.

Preliminary Diagnoses of Seven Apparently New Neotropical Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. XXVIII, pp. 169–170. November 29, 1915.

² The Domestic Cat. Bird Killer, Mouser and Destroyer of Wild Life. Means of Utilizing and Controlling It. By Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist. Economic Biology — Bulletin No. 2. Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, pp. 1–112. 1916.

³ Opinions Rendered by the International Commission on Zoölogical Nomenclature. Opinion 67. One Hundred and Two Birds Names Placed in the Official List of Generic Names. Smithson. Inst. Publ. 2409, pp. 177–182. April, 1916.

the Commission can then recommend for adoption in an Official List as authorized by the Gratz International Zoological Congress.

The Ornithological Advisory Committee consisting of Allen, Hartert, Hellmayr, Oberholser, Richmond, Ridgway, Stejneger and Stone, submitted a list of 189 of the more common and more important generic names of birds with references, genotypes, and method of type designation. This list was sent to 350 zoölogists and zoölogical institutions throughout the world as well as to 44 specialists on ornithological nomenclature. As a result objection of some sort or other was raised against 87 names and these were referred back to the Advisory Committee for further opinion as to whether the objections have any weight under the Code.

The remaining 102 names against which no question has been raised are forthwith added to the list.

At first thought it would seem preferable to consider this matter chronologically, publication by publication, but it will, we think, be admitted that the plan adopted, of selecting the more familiar and important genera first, is the better, as it will at once establish uniformity in the names most frequently used. The majority of those who desire to use correct names have neither the time nor the technical experience to work the questions out for themselves by the Code, and an international standard list will fill a long-felt want and do more for stability of nomenclature than anything else. Dr. C. Wardell Stiles, Secretary of the Commission and Dr. Charles W. Richmond, Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Ornithology deserve the thanks of ornithologists for the thorough manner in which they have handled the work and we hope to see the 'Official List' grow apace on the lines they have established.— W. S.

Aves of the Zoological Record 1914.¹— Only those who have labored upon bibliographies can appreciate the magnitude of the task of compiling the ornithological titles of an entire year; and when we realize the absolute necessity of such compilations to systematic work we appreciate our indebtedness to Mr. Sclater. He lists for 1914 a total of 1088 titles as against 1576 for 1913 and 1665 for 1912 — sad evidence of the effect of the war. The 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature' having been discontinued until after the war, the Zoological Society has assumed the publication of the 'Zoological Record' thereby conferring a great favor upon all zoölogists.— W. S.

Recent Papers by Hartert.— In 'Novitates Zoologicae' for April, 1916, Vol. XXIII, Dr. Ernst Hartert has a number of important contributions. Under the title 'Notes on Pigeons' he demonstrates that *Streptopelia decaocto* is the correct name for the Indian Turtle-Dove and that *S. roseogrisea* is probably the ancestor of the tame bird. Other groups are

¹ Zoölogical Record, Vol. LI. 1914. Aves. W. L. Sclater. Zool. Soc. London. January, 1916. pp. 1-77. Price, six shillings.