

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BY T. S. PALMER, CHAIRMAN.

DURING the year the Committee on Biography and Bibliography has engaged in several distinct projects. In the preparation of the annual list of members efforts were made to obtain the full names of all members; those of Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Corresponding Fellows, and Members are now practically complete, and those of Associates, except about 50 have been published in full.

In preparing the list of deceased members, published this year for the first time since 1925, the entire list was subjected to careful revision. Several missing dates and names were obtained and in a few cases important corrections made when re-examination of the dates showed that previous entries were based on imperfect or incorrect data. Much assistance in this connection was rendered by Ruthven Deane and Dr. H. B. Wood. The list as published in the April 'Auk' contains not only a complete list of the 500 or more deceased members with their full names and dates of death, but also references to obituary notices of nearly 300 of the members.

In each number of 'The Auk' have appeared several obituary notices prepared for the most part either by members of the Committee or at their solicitation. During the year several notices were also published of members who died in previous years but for whom, on account of lack of information, no notices had been prepared.

Following the publication of the complete list of sets of 'The Auk' in October, 1929, efforts were made to assist various libraries, public and private, in completing the sets in their possession, and a number of changes have been reported as additions and transfers. The additions, including 15 sets in public libraries, number 26 and are as follows: (Asterisks indicate a few numbers missing.)

- California—Ralph Ellis, Berkeley; C. G. Abbott, San Diego.
- District of Columbia—additional set in the U. S. National Museum.
- Hawaii—Bishop Museum, Honolulu.
- Illinois—D. C. Klotz, Winnetka (H. K. Coale set).
- Iowa—*State Library, Des Moines.

Kansas—University of Kansas, Watson Library, Lawrence; State Agricultural College, Manhattan.

Louisiana—*Tulane University, New Orleans.

Massachusetts—*Peabody Museum, Salem; *F. S. Hersey, Easton.

New York—Wells College, Aurora; E. M. Evans, Mrs. Carl Tucker (Dwight set), and Frank Walters, New York City.

North Carolina—Duke University, Durham.

Ohio—State Museum, Columbus (W. L. Dawson set).

Tennessee—J. M. Shaver, Nashville.

Vermont—Wendell P. Smith, Wells River (Howard Saunders set).

Washington—State College, Pullman.

Wisconsin—Mrs. C. L. Hutchison, Lake Geneva (Ridgway set).

Australia—Australian Museum, Sydney; *Public Library of Victoria, Melbourne.

Canada—Library of Parliament, Ottawa.

Germany—Stätliches Museum, Dresden.

Peru—Harvey Bassler, Iquitos.

Four transfers which make no change in the totals should also be noted. The J. H. Riley set formerly credited to the District of Columbia is now in the library of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; that belonging to the late Henry Nehrling in the library of Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.; that of the late C. W. Chamberlain is now the property of Ralph Ellis, Berkeley, Calif., and that of the late John A. Farley is now in the library of O. L. Austin, Jr., North Eastham, Mass.

From the list should be subtracted 3—a set acquired a few years ago by the late Dr. Hiram Byrd in Florida, and those belonging to the late Edward Arnold and Arthur T. Wayne. These changes increase the number of those in public libraries or museums from 109 to 124 and the total number of sets from 232 to 255. In addition to these sets are 14 others which lack only a few of the first six volumes, now very rare, which can no longer be supplied by the Union.

Closely connected with the work of recording complete sets is that of locating and building up incomplete sets. During the year more than 100 back volumes have been sold to libraries interested in filling gaps in their sets. In this connection a list was published in 'The Auk' for October, 1930, showing the location of all public libraries in the United States and Canada which have files of the journal. These number nearly 200, of which 107 have complete

sets. The sets of 'The Auk' in public libraries form the most permanent and important record of the work of the Union. It is highly desirable that the number of libraries be extended considerably in the near future, that there should be at least one set of the journal in a public library in every State and so far as possible in those libraries which make provision through loan systems for making the volumes accessible to readers in remote parts of the State.

Reference may also be made in this report to the activities of others in the field of bibliography. The most important publication of the year is one by Dr. John C. Phillips, entitled "American Game Mammals and Birds, a Catalogue of Books, 1582 to 1925." This bibliography on game and conservation is based primarily on the library of the late Charles Sheldon now in the library of Yale University. In addition to the titles of books are references to many game laws, game decisions, Acts of Congress, and Executive Orders, so that the volume as a whole forms an indispensable index to the literature of American conservation.

Another important work is that by Dr. Casey A. Wood entitled 'Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology' based chiefly on titles in the zoological collections of McGill University. This work in two volumes is now in press and will probably appear in 1931. Under the unique title 'Blatchleyana, 1930,' Dr. W. S. Blatchley has recently issued an illustrated pamphlet of 77 pages containing his chronology from 1859 to 1930, a bibliography of 197 titles, including a few on birds, lists of families and higher groups, genera, and species etc. named by him, and a list of genera and species dedicated to him by others. This publication is issued by the Nature Publishing Co., Indianapolis, Ind. Reference should also be made in this connection to a bibliography by Dr. R. M. Strong which has been in course of preparation for some time to supplement Coues' 'Bibliography of Ornithology' by including titles not included in that work especially on the subjects of anatomy, physiology, pigmentation, etc.

Reference has been made in previous reports to two other projects undertaken by the Committee, an index of published portraits of ornithologists and bibliographies of authors. The list of bibliographies now contains the bibliographies of nearly 100 ornithol-

ogists, one of the latest additions is a mimeographed list of the papers of Henry Monsley issued by McGill University. Progress has been made on both of these works during the year, and in the near future it is hoped that one or both can be prepared for publication. In this connection members who have published a considerable number of papers but have not collected the titles are urged to do so with a view either to possible publication or deposit of a copy in a place where it will be accessible to others.