

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BY T. S. PALMER, CHAIRMAN.

A CONSIDERABLE part of the efforts of the committee this year has been devoted to assisting the Editor in proof reading the 'Check List of North American Birds' and several numbers of 'The Auk.' In the annual list of members which appeared in the April number special efforts were made to complete the names and all except about 35 were published in full. As heretofore the committee has been called on for information regarding the full names of ornithologists and these data have been furnished whenever possible notably for Howell's 'Florida Bird Life.'

Obituary notices have been prepared by members of the committee or at their solicitation for 15 of the members who died. In addition notices have been published of several members who died in previous years but concerning whom information was not available at the time. A list of the resting places of about 40 deceased ornithologists has also been prepared for publication.

During the year considerable correspondence has been carried on with libraries in various parts of the country in assisting them in building up or completing their sets of 'The Auk.' The list of public libraries where 'The Auk' may be found was published in 'The Auk' for October 1930. Ten additions to this list have since been made, namely:

- California—Institute of Technology, Pasadena.
- Florida—University of Florida, Gainesville (C. W. Richmond Set).
- Illinois—Greenville College, Greenville.
- Louisiana—Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans.
- Maryland—Academy of Sciences, Baltimore.
- Massachusetts—Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole.
- Michigan—Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills.
- Nebraska—Public Library, Omaha.
- Virginia—State Library, Richmond.
- Ontario—University of Western Ontario, London (J. E. Keays Set).

The list of complete sets of 'The Auk' remains approximately the same as that published in the report for last year. Two additions to the list include a set in Wellesley College, Mass., and an extra

set acquired by Frank Walters. Several transfers which make no change in the totals may also be noted:

The C. W. Richmond set is now in the University of Florida at Gainesville, that of J. E. Keays is in the University of Western Ontario at London, Ont., the A. T. Wayne set has been acquired by Frank Walters, and the set belonging to F. M. Dille has been transferred from Valentine, Nebr. to Rapid City, S. D.

Early in the spring the committee assembled certain information regarding the Union under the title, 'The A. O. U. at a Glance,' published on the back cover of the April 'Auk' and also as a separate circular. This statement has been useful in soliciting new members.

During the year one addition has been made to the series of historical papers on notable bird collections, namely the account by Mrs. W. W. Naumburg of the collection of the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfort-on-Main which appeared in 'The Auk' for July, 1931. This is the fifth in a series of such contributions including accounts of the collections in the Berlin Museum (Auk, 1925, pp. 241-245), Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires (Auk, 1926, pp. 37-46), Royal Museum at Stockholm, Sweden (Auk, 1926, pp. 434-446), and Munich (Auk, 1928, pp. 293-301). Accounts of the collections at Vienna, Austria, and Warsaw, Poland, are now in preparation.

State Lists:—With the appearance of the new 'A. O. U. Check List' containing a modern classification and many changes in names, the older state lists will prove less convenient for consultation and no doubt in some cases revised editions will be issued, arranged according to the new 'Check List.' Thirty-seven states have published lists of their birds since 1900 but in one-third of this number the publications are more than 20 years old and are rapidly becoming out of date. The states which have published lists between 1901 and 1910 are Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

No recent State Lists are available for Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, Rhode Island, Tennessee or Texas. A notable addition to the state lists under the title of 'Florida Bird Life' is now in press and work on the 'Birds of Minnesota' is almost completed. A voluminous work on the birds of Texas has been in manuscript for some years and it is hoped that

means for its publication in the near future may be obtained. Work is progressing on new state lists for Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming, and it is hoped that they may be completed at no distant date. 'Florida Bird Life,' 'Birds of Minnesota,' and the 'Birds of New Mexico' are all arranged in accordance with the new 'Check List.'

*Publications of 1831.*¹

In connection with the new 'Check-List' it may not be amiss to refer to some of the important publications of a century ago. The year 1831 witnessed the appearance of several important publications on birds, including about 30 plates of Audubon's 'Birds of America' and the final parts of Lesson's 'Traité d'Ornithologie.' In these parts were described the genera *Bartramia* and *Podilymbus*. The 'Magazin de Zoologie' which contained numerous descriptions of new birds began publication in 1831. The Jameson edition of Wilson and Bonaparte's 'American Ornithology' was another book of this year, and contains the original description of the Trumpeter Swan. The second edition of Montagu's 'Ornithological Dictionary of British Birds,' edited by James Rennie, bears date of 1831. Bonaparte's 'Saggio' was published partly in 1831 and partly in 1832, while Richardson and Swainson's 'Fauna Boreali Americana' bears date of 1831 but actually came out in February, 1832. Mention may also be made of articles in the 'Isis,' by Johann Wagler, on birds of Mexico, in which he described various new species, including *Larus pipixcan*, *Parra gymnostoma*, *Columba flavirostris*, and the genera *Geococcyx*, *Junco*, and *Toxostoma*.

COMMITTEE:

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¹ For these notes I am indebted to Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, who has kindly listed the important publications above mentioned.