

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BY T. S. PALMER, CHAIRMAN.

In a suggestive paper by A. C. Haddon, entitled "The Saving of Vanishing Data," originally published in 'Popular Science Monthly' for January, 1903, pp. 222-229, the author draws attention to the importance of recording fugitive information and declares: "Our first and immediate duty is to save for science those data that are vanishing; this should be the watchword of the present day." This paper has been the text of a recent article by Ralph T. King in the 'Canadian Field Naturalist' for May, 1932, in which the subject is further elaborated with special reference to the necessity of collecting data concerning species that are rare or likely to disappear before long.

The same text is even more applicable to the work of the Committee on Biography and Bibliography, which, because of obvious limitations, is concerned primarily with collecting and recording fugitive facts regarding the membership of the Union, biographical data concerning ornithologists, and bibliographical data relative to 'The Auk,' rare books and ornithological manuscripts of special interest.

During the past year publication of the usual list of members was omitted but the Committee has received several calls for information relative to full names of ornithologists, especially in connection with Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Birds' and the new 'Ten-Year Index to The Auk.'

A special effort has been made to build up the circulation of our publications in public libraries and as a result the sets of 'The Auk' in eighteen libraries have been materially increased. Sixteen new libraries have been added to the list of those known to possess some volumes of the journal, namely:

Cooper Club, Los Angeles; Pomona College, Claremont, Calif.; University of California at Los Angeles; Humboldt State Teachers' College, Arcata, Calif.; Illinois State Normal University; Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; Maria Mitchell Association, Nantucket, Mass.; University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.; University of Cincinnati, Ohio; Dickinson

College, Carlisle, Pa.; University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; Carnegie Public Library, Ottawa, Canada; National Parks of Canada, Ottawa; Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C.; State Library of Berlin, Germany; and the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan, Italy.

During the year several sets of 'The Auk' have been practically completed, including those of the Cooper Club, Los Angeles, Calif.; Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Col.; Colorado Museum, Denver, Col.; Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.; and the private sets of F. N. Bassett, Wm. G. Fargo, L. M. Huey, R. T. Moore and C. H. Rogers. Several other sets have been transferred, viz.: The W. L. Chambers set has been acquired by Pomona College, the M. S. Crosby set by Ludlow Griscom, the J. E. Law set by the University of California at Los Angeles, the E. P. Bicknell set from Clarence Bretsch by Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton, Wis.; the Harry Merrill set by E. A. Preble, and the G. F. Morcom set by H. S. Swarth. The Harvey Bassler set has been transferred from Iquitos, Peru, to Myerstown, Pa.; the W. R. Boulton set from Pittsburgh to Chicago, and the R. W. Williams set from Tallahassee, Fla. to East Falls Church, Va.

Ornithology in 1832: We are celebrating this year the centennial of a number of events of ornithological interest. The following summary has been included in memory of the late Charles W. Richmond, a member of the Committee, who believed that the progress of ornithology could be demonstrated best by recalling the events of a hundred years ago:

The year 1832 recalls the death of Baron Georges Cuvier, whose long and brilliant career in zoology came to a close at the age of 63; and of Johann Georg Wagler, author of the genera *Callipepla* and *Toxostoma*, who died at the early age of 32.

In 1832 several ornithologists were born who later became famous. Among these may be mentioned Thomas W. Blakiston, known for his investigations on Japanese birds; W. T. Blandford, author of 'The Birds of India'; Manly Hardy, naturalist, of Brewer, Maine; Mrs. Sara A. Hubbard, of Brooklyn, New York, one of the pioneer teachers in popular bird study; Josiah Hoopes, of West Chester, Pa., an associate of Cassin and Turnbull, who brought together a well-prepared collection of 8,000 birds; Prof.

Charles Linden, custodian of the Buffalo Society of Natural History, who made collecting expeditions to the Everglades, West Indies, Brazil, and Labrador; Edward Newton, younger brother of Prof. Alfred Newton and one of the founders of the British Ornithologists' Union; Henry Seebohm, author of 'Siberia in Europe,' 'Siberia in Asia,' the 'Monograph of the Charadriidae' and other contributions; and Alexander O. Taylor, president of the Rhode Island Society of Natural History and for several years a member of the Commissioners of Birds of Rhode Island.¹

Among the notable publications of 1832 was the first volume of Nuttall's 'Manual' (land birds), issued at Cambridge, Mass. As Coues has well said, "Nuttall, like good wine, does not deteriorate with age." In London, the same year witnessed the appearance of Lear's 'Illustrations of Parrots,' a series of plates without text, and Swainson and Richardson's 'Fauna Boreali-Americana,' dated 1831 but published in February, 1832. In Germany, Wagler's 'Monographia Psittacorum' was published at Munich; while in Paris, Lesson issued the final part of his great work on the Hummingbirds. This was one of the notable monographs of the early 19th century and comprised three parts: 'Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux Mouches,' issued in 1829; 'Histoire Naturelle des Colibris,' in 1830-31; and 'Les Trochilidées,' in 1832.

The year 1832 was notable also for the publication of the genera *Callipepla*, *Centrocerus*, *Chordeiles*, *Erismatura*, *Melanerpes*, *Selasphorus*, *Spizella* and *Zonotrichia*, all of which have been in use for a hundred years without change; for the publication of the descriptions of several species, including the American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*), the Spotted Screech Owl (*Otus trichopsis*), the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*); Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*); and the Magnificent Trogon, better known as the Quetzal or national bird of Guatemala (*Pharomacrus mocinno*); and also for the description of Hutchins' Goose (*Branta c. hutchinsi*), named by Richardson, and other northern birds described by Swainson, now recognized as subspecies in the genera *Dryobates*, *Ixoreus*, *Lanius*, *Leucosticte*, *Myiochanes*, and *Pipilo*.

¹ Taylor was born Jan. 2; Seebohm, July 12; Mrs. Hubbard, Sept. 7; Blanford, Oct. 7; Hoopes, Nov. 9; Newton, Nov. 10; Hardy, Nov. 11; and Blakiston, Dec. 27. The exact date of Linden's birth is unknown.