

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE FOR 1962

Van Tyne Research Grants. The award for 1962 was made to David Strohmeier, a graduate student at Iowa State University, for a study of marsh birds.

Review Papers for The Auk. Three review articles are now in preparation, the first of which should be ready for publication within the coming year. These deal with (1) regulation of water balance in birds, (2) concepts and terminology in ethology as applied to birds, and (3) avian genetics.

Current Literature. The Research Committee has been negotiating with *Biological Abstracts* during the past year concerning the procurement of reprints of abstracts of all bird articles published in that periodical for distribution to A.O.U. members. Several different possible arrangements have been considered but as yet nothing definite has been worked out.

Electronic Storing of Bibliographic References and Research Data. Readers of our last committee report in the April, 1962, *Auk* (pp. 263-264) are familiar with the suggestion for an ornithological information center which would function for the electronic storing of bibliographic data on IBM cards or on tape, so that any portion of the data could be retrieved mechanically as desired. A number of problems must be solved before such a center can be established. These problems involve the working out of the exact procedure for handling each literature citation, including with each a list of topics discussed therein; classifying ornithological knowledge for a proper coding system of subject matter; devising a coding system also for bird names and taxonomic categories; finding financial support for initiating the project; establishing a permanent staff at a central office; and settling on a routine to be followed for use of the center by ornithological investigators.

A group of persons at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, headed by Dr. Paul H. Baldwin, has volunteered to make a feasibility study of the proposal, if the necessary funds can be secured from some granting body. The A.O.U. Council expressed its hope that Colorado State University will undertake this study and authorized the Research Committee to cooperate.

This report will be the last by the present chairman, who has asked to be relieved after four years of work with the Research Committee.

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Illinois, Wright and Healey Sts.,
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