

the work in ornithology. Yet how discouraging it is to day by day file away references to the avifauna of each State in the Union, when the information thus collected with endless pains is never used! That there are imperfections in our work has been inevitable; but the only way to remedy these is for us to come into closer relations with American ornithologists, whom our organization is designed to serve.

I wish to lay this matter before the A. O. U. with the hope that a means may be found for securing the support of the Union and its members. It would be especially pleasing if the A. O. U. could appoint a committee to coöperate in making our work more serviceable.

Respectfully,

HERBERT HAVILAND FIELD.

[It may be added, for the information of our readers, that the American Museum of Natural History, of New York, is a volunteer agency for the distribution of the cards of the Concilium, through which institution they may be ordered. As the cards are held in stock, orders can be filled without delay. They may also be ordered through Edward S. Field, 427 Broadway, New York City.—EDD.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

WILLIAM THOMAS BLANFORD, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his residence in Bedford Gardens, Campden Hill, London, on June 23, 1905, at the age of 72 years. Dr. Blanford was an eminent worker in other fields of scientific research as well as in ornithology. His explorations in Abyssinia, Persia, the Peninsula of India, the Himalaya, and other portions of Central Asia, as a geologist, a physical geographer, and zoölogist, gave him a wide range of experience, which fitted him to deal authoritatively with the problems of zoögeography, to which subject he made important contributions, especially as to the faunal subdivisions of the Oriental Region. He published many papers on mammals, reptiles, and mollusks, as well as on birds. He was employed for many years on the Geological Survey of India, to which he was appointed in 1855, and from which he retired in 1882.

His ornithological papers relate mainly to the birds of India, and were published at intervals from 1867 to 1894; he was also the author of two of the bird volumes (Vols. III and IV) of the 'Fauna of British India' (of which seventeen volumes have appeared), of which great work he was the editor. Among his other principal works are: 'Observations on the Geology and Zoölogy of Abyssinia' (1870; birds pp. 285-443); 'Eastern Persia: an Account of the Journeys of the Persian Boundary Commission, 1870-72' (birds, pp. 98-304); 'The Distribution of Vertebrate Animals

in India, Ceylon, and Burma' (Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Vol. LXVII, 1901, pp. 484-492). The later years of his life were spent in London, in scientific research, where he served also on the Councils of the Royal, Geological, Geographical, and Zoölogical Societies.

SIR WALTER LAWRY BULLER, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Fleet, in Hampshire, England, July 19, 1906, at the age of 68 years. He was born in New Zealand in 1838, where he spent most of his life; he was a lawyer by profession, and held, at different times, several government commissions. He became early interested in birds, and was long recognized as the chief authority on New Zealand ornithology, to which his ornithological writings mainly relate. His 'History of the Birds of New Zealand' (1 vol., 4to, London) was published in 1873, followed by a second edition (2 vols., 4to) in 1887-88, and a 'Supplement' (2 vols., 4to) in 1905-06. He also published a 'Manual of the Birds of New Zealand' (8vo, Wellington) in 1882; and many papers in 'The Ibis,' the 'Proceedings' of the Zoölogical Society of London, and the 'Transactions' of the New Zealand Institute. He was also a good ethnologist, and made contributions to other branches of natural history.

THE A. O. U. Committee on the revision of the Code of Nomenclature presented its report to the Council during the recent session of the A. O. U. Congress held in Washington, November 13-16, 1906. After considerable discussion the report of the Committee was adopted; on only one provision was there much diversity of opinion, either in the Committee or in the Council. This was in relation to the determination of types of genera, in reference to which the Committee submitted majority and a minority reports, the majority report being the one adopted by the Council. This was to the effect that where the types of polytypic genera are not specified by the founder of the genus, and are not determinable by the principle of tautonomy, the first species mentioned as belonging to the genus is to be taken as its type. To avoid too great confusion from a universal enforcement of a 'first species rule' for such cases, the Linnæan genera were exempted from its application. The minority report of the Committee favored the continued use of the so-called 'elimination method,' or the application of the rule of priority. In other respects the old A. O. U. Code is not materially changed, the various amendments introducing no new principle, nor reversing any former ruling; they simply amplify and render more explicit such canons as were open to doubtful interpretation in respect to their full scope and intent.

The Committee on the Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds submitted a report of progress, showing that the work of preparing the new edition of the Check-List was well advanced, but that much still remained to be accomplished before the manuscript could be given to the printer. A meeting of this Committee was held after the adjournment of the A. O. U. Congress, at which all of the then remaining details

as to the scope and form of the new Check-List were decided, as well as quite a number of cases of nomenclature and the status of forms. The Committee adjourned to meet again in April, to complete the work still in hand.

THE second annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies was held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on October 30, 1906. The Treasurer's report showed that the receipts for the year had been \$8,773.67, and the expenditures \$9,316.95, showing a deficit of \$523.54, notwithstanding the utmost economy in administration. Seventeen life members were added during the year, and the fees therefrom added to the endowment fund. The report of the subcommittee of the Board of Directors appointed to complete the negotiations relative to a settlement of the residuary interest of the Association under the will of the late Albert Willcox (see Auk, XXII, Oct. 1906, p. 486) stated that a settlement had been effected whereby the sum of \$231,072 had been acquired by the association. This makes the total legacy of \$331,072 from the will of the late Albert Willcox available for the work of the Association. The following were elected Directors to serve for the term of five years: Frank Bond, of Wyoming; T. Gilbert Pearson, of North Carolina; Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davenport, of Vermont; J. A. Allen, of New York; David Starr Jordan, of California.

The President, in a verbal address, gave a brief account of the work accomplished during 1906; the report, in full, is printed in the November-December issue of 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. VIII, No. 6, pp. 225-284). Referring to the bequest above mentioned it says: "... during the past year, by the magnificent beneficence of one of our members, the late Albert Willcox, the Association has been changed from a weak and struggling Society to a permanent and strong organization with a substantial endowment fund." The report reviews in detail the work of the year, and, as usual, is a document of great ornithological interest aside from the feature of bird protection.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Members of the A. O. U. and subscribers to 'The Auk' should note the change of address of the Treasurer, given on the second page of the cover of this issue, namely: Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., **134 West 71st Street**, New York City.