

of pleasing both the amateur and the specialist. In this the writer thinks he is mistaken. The Committee has tried to decide each subspecies case upon its merits regardless of how its opinion might affect any individual or class. Such inconsistencies as have resulted were unintentional and due to the lack of any standard in such matters — not to any feeling of obligation to anyone.

The only instance where the Committee has acted in deference to the views of amateur ornithologists — and scientific ones too as it happens — was in the withholding of nomenclatural opinions from the Sixteenth Supplement. This was done in view of the widespread disgust at 'name shuffling' and the diverse interpretation of Article 30 of the International Code, pending an opinion by the International Commission. It was thought far better to temporarily withhold decisions which might have to be reversed in a year or two.

Further on Mr. Grinnell adopts a rather unfortunate simile in discussing the Committee's work. He rightly contends that his judgment upon the validity of proposed new forms in a group of Middle American Humming-birds with which he was quite unfamiliar would not be worth much if based upon but a few days study. In the case of the Committee however he seems to forget that the members are fairly familiar with North American birds and that many of the races which modern 'speciation specialists' have honored with names were worked out but not named by members of the Committee years ago. Furthermore what knowledge one member of the Committee lacks another may possess so that the efforts of the Committee are certainly not seven times as ridiculous as the efforts of any one of them individually. In not a few cases moreover the Committee has had more material before it than had the describer of the proposed new race.

The writer welcomes Mr. Grinnell's communication because it shows the proper spirit of coöperation. Everyone will have different opinions on such matters as he has discussed and only by bringing them forward can we achieve results approximately satisfactory to all. The Committee certainly desires to produce satisfactory results and to raise the Check-List to the highest efficiency and if its methods are wrong the sooner the fact is demonstrated the better.

WITMER STONE.]

### **Aves in the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature.**

THE EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

*Dear Sir:* It has occurred to me that the accompanying table may be of some interest to your readers and may also incidentally be of assistance to the writer who is engaged in the task of compiling the 'Aves' portion of the Zoölogical Record and the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. The Zoölogical Record which was founded nearly 50 years

ago by a small body of subscribers and was subsequently taken over by the Zoological Society was in 1906 amalgamated with the zoological portion of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature and has now reached its 48th annual issue. The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature was established in 1900 and is in effect a continuation of the Royal Society's Catalogue of Scientific Papers which when completed will cover the period 1800-1900.

By an arrangement made between the Royal Society and the scientific representatives of most of the other countries of the world appointed by their respective governments an International Organization was established, by means of which each of the component countries collects the titles of all papers and works of scientific importance published within their limits and forwards them to the International Bureau in London. These titles which are all written on separate slips, are by the Bureau distributed to the recorders or compilers of the various subjects of which there are 17 in all, Zoology forming one.

The duty of each Recorder is to arrange all the titles received for publication and to search for other titles which have been omitted or passed over by the regional bureaus of the co-operating states. It is also the duty of the Recorder to collect titles from those states which do not co-operate as well as those published in the British Islands.

As regards the Aves portion of the Catalogue I find some countries provide a very complete series of titles while others do not and one of the objects of this letter and the accompanying table is to draw attention to this fact. In the first column of the table is given the number of titles collected by the Recorder himself, in the second column the number which has reached him through the Bureau. It will be seen that out of 307 titles of Ornithological papers and publications coming from the United States 40 were supplied by the Recorder.

It is also very desirable for the Recorder to verify all the titles sent in so as to be able to reject those which are of no scientific value and importance. I find in the case of 'Aves' titles from the United States that this is by no means easy as so many of the minor and more local periodicals are not to be found on the shelves of the great scientific libraries in London. For instance I have not been able to see in London such publications as *Bird Lore*, *Cassinia*, the *Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* and other local journals of the same type. I hope therefore that if these lines are seen by the editors of these journals they will take steps to arrange that copies may be regularly transmitted to the Library of the Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road or to that of the Zoological or Royal Societies so that the Recorder may have an opportunity of seeing them.

Yours faithfully,

W. L. SCLATER,

*Corresponding Fellow A. O. U., Recorder of Aves.*

## TITLES OF 'AVES' OF 1911.

	Collected by the Recorder	Sent in by the Regional Bureaus.	Total.
British Islands	371	—	371
United States	40	267	307
Germany	37	298	335
France	65	74	139
Russia	0	115	115
Australia	15	31	46
Italy	12	24	36
India	20	12	32
Austria	1	28	29
Hungary	17	7	24
Switzerland	8	14	22
Sweden	2	17	19
Denmark (and Iceland)	2	15	17
Holland	4	12	16
Finland	0	11	11
South Africa	3	8	11
Canada	8	0	8
Belgium	6	0	6
Malay Peninsula	6	0	6
Norway	2	2	4
Philippine Islands	4	0	4
Japan	0	3	3
British East Africa	3	0	3
Cuba	3	0	3
Argentine Republic	3	0	3
Bohemia	1	1	2
Portugal	2	0	2
Luxemburg	1	0	1
Roumania	1	0	1
Servia	1	0	1
Egypt and E. Soudan	1	0	1
Barbados	1	0	1
British Guiana	1	0	1
Brazil	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Chile	1	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	1
	645	939	1584