

## CORRESPONDENCE

### A. C. BENT'S 'LIFE HISTORIES'

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':—

As a result of numerous enquiries as to when the next number of my series of Bulletins on the Life Histories of North American Birds will appear, I am making a report of progress and presenting a request to your readers. No more volumes in this series are likely to be published during the war. There are, however, two completed volumes in Washington awaiting publication. Another volume is mainly in manuscript here. These three volumes cover all the birds on the 1931 Check-list from the jays to the vireos, inclusive, and will be published *some day*.

I am now gathering material for the 18th volume, which is to include the wood warblers. I am very grateful to all those who have contributed notes and photographs for previous volumes, and am appealing to their generous coöperation in contributing similar material relating to the warblers. The sooner this material is received, the better use can be made of it.—A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Massachusetts*.

### A CHECK-LIST OF MEXICAN BIRDS

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':—

For a long time systematists and students of distribution have felt the need of a Check-list of Mexican birds. Indeed, during the past eight years two presidents of the American Ornithologists' Union have urged, through the Research Committee, the preparation of such a list. While large collections of Mexican birds existed in museums on this side of the water, as well as in England and continental Europe, none of them contained a sufficient number of specimens with adequate modern data to make it possible to determine the distribution of so huge an avifauna. However, during the past few years large new collections have been made under the auspices of various public and private American museums. Preliminary work on a check-list has been in progress for some years by the chairman of the undersigned group, which has now agreed to push the work to completion.

As this will be the first Check-list of Mexican birds, we fully realize it may contain many errors and a revised edition may be required at a fairly early date. In fact, we are properly conscious that one of the chief results of this work will be the opportunity it will give to all interested persons to point out imperfections and additional facts, so that a subsequent edition may be a great improvement. It is hoped that all workers in the Mexican field will coöperate with the undersigned. As soon as a preliminary draft of the manuscript is ready, criticism will be invited. All correspondence should be addressed to the chairman.

Due to the amount of new material available, it is hoped that it will be possible to give, with some attempt at detail, the distributions of many of the forms, but where this is not possible, definite statements to that effect will be made. For common names both English and Spanish will be employed. The undersigned are much pleased that Dr. Rafael Martin del Campo of the Instituto de Biologia of Mexico City has agreed to supply the Spanish names, a task he is better qualified to undertake than anyone else.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, LUDLOW GRISCOM, ROBERT T. MOORE (*Chairman*).