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## 100 Years Ago in The Auk



Excerpts from "Notes and News" (1889, *Auk* 6: 79-84):

"AT THE meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union recently held in Washington the matter of revising the proposed additions to the A.O.U. Check-List of North American birds, together with sundry suggested changes of nomenclature made since the publication of the Check-List, was referred to the Committee on Publications, with authority to publish the results of their work at the earliest practicable date, as a Supplement, to the A.O.U. Code and Check-List, and uniform with it as regards matter and typography. The Committee held a six days' session, ruling upon upwards of one hundred distinct questions. The status of the newly described species and subspecies, and the claims to admission of a number of extra-limital species were duly considered, as also a number of proposed changes in generic, subgeneric, and specific names. The preparation of the manuscript was provided for, as also the early publication of the report, in the hope of issuing it early in the year 1889 . . .

"THE COUNCIL of the A.O.U. decided at its late meeting in Washington [sic] to issue an abridged edition of the Check-List, consisting of the scientific and common names, the serial numbering, and the 'concordance,' omitting the bibliographical references and the habitats; the abridged edition, however, to include the additions and changes of the 'Supplement,' interpolated in their proper places. It will be printed on fine paper, and on one side of the page only, in order that it may be conveniently used for labelling purposes when desired, or the blank pages, when the list is used merely for a check-list, may be utilized

for additions or other notes. This abridged list is already in the hands of the printer, and its publication may be looked for during January, 1889 . . .

"THE DESIRABILITY of adopting some uniform method of measuring birds having been brought to the attention of the Council of the A.O.U., by a letter on the subject addressed to it by Col. N. S. Goss, the Council appointed a Committee, consisting of Dr. Coues, Mr. Ridgway, Mr. Cory, Dr. Merriam, and Dr. Stejneger, to prepare a report on the subject to be presented at the next meeting. The committee at its first session discussed the matter at some length, deciding some general matters, and referring special points to a subcommittee, consisting of Mr. Ridgway and Drs. Merriam and Stejneger, with instructions to prepare directions, illustrated with diagrams, for taking measurements of the bill and tail, in reference to which it is found that the systems employed by different authors widely vary. It is thus evident that a uniform method is highly desirable, and it is hoped the Committee will be able to formulate one which can be commended for general adoption . . .

"THE question of the adoption of the metric system in ornithology, mentioned above, was discussed by the Council of the A.O.U. at the meeting recently held in Washington, and the matter of its adoption in 'The Auk,' was referred to the Committee on Publications. It was here again discussed at length, but the motion to adopt was finally lost, much to the surprise of some of the members advocating it. It would seem, however, that a reform of such evident desirability, must sooner or later meet with general favor."