

mittee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds was reappointed¹ to take charge of the work. The Committee held sessions in Washington, D. C., January 15-19, 1894, and February 12, 13, 1895, to outline the work and to rule on the questions involved in the publication of the revised List. The revision of the matter relating to the geographic distribution of the species and subspecies was undertaken by the Committee as a whole, each member in turn taking it in hand, while the incorporation of typographic and other rectifications made during the sessions of the Committee,² and the final preparation of the manuscript for the printer, was referred to a subcommittee consisting of the Editor of 'The Auk,' to whom was also assigned the general editorial supervision of the work.

The following extracts from the Introduction to the Code of Nomenclature (pp. 14, 15) will serve to explain the scope and plan of the Check-List, including the method of incorporating additions.

"1. That the term 'North American,' as applied to the proposed List of Birds, be held to include the continent of North America north of the present United States and Mexican boundary, and Greenland; and the peninsula of Lower California, with the islands naturally belonging thereto.

"2. That species be numbered consecutively, and that subspecies be enumerated by affixing the letters *a*, *b*, *c*, etc., to the number borne by their respective species; provided, that any subspecies of a species not included in the North American Fauna shall be separately numbered as if a species.

"3. That stragglers or accidental visitors, not regarded as components of the North American Fauna, be distinguished by having their respective numbers in brackets.

¹ With the exception of Mr. H. W. Henshaw, who was unable to serve, and Dr. C. Hart Merriam was appointed in his stead.

² The Committee desires to here acknowledge valuable assistance received, especially in the preparation of the geographic portions of the list, from Major Charles Bendire, Mr. Frank M. Chapman, Dr. Walter Faxon, Dr. A. K. Fisher, Mr. Gerri S. Miller, Jr., and Dr. T. S. Palmer. The Committee is further indebted to Dr. Palmer for numerous corrections in the citations of original references.