

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

AT the first Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in New York, September 26-29, 1883, the following resolution was adopted:—

“Resolved, That the Chairman appoint a Committee of five, including himself, to whom shall be referred the question of a Revision of the Classification and Nomenclature of the Birds of North America.”

In pursuance of this resolution the following Committee was appointed: Messrs. Coues, Allen, Ridgway, Brewster, and Henshaw.

The Committee, having held numerous sessions in Washington and New York, presented its Report at the second Congress of the Union, held in New York, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 1884, when the following resolution was adopted:—

“Resolved, That the Report of the Committee on the Revision of the Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds be accepted and adopted, and that it be recommitted to the Committee, with instructions to complete and submit it to the Council as soon as practicable; and that the Council be empowered and instructed to accept and adopt the Report as finally rendered, with such modifications as they may deem necessary, and to publish the same, copyrighted, in part or in whole, and in one or more forms, in the name and under the auspices of the American Ornithologists' Union.”

The Committee, having continued its sessions, presented its final report to the Council at a meeting held in Washington