

ZOOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Volume 5

PREFACE

It was in December 2015 that we wrote the Preface to Vol. 4 and in the four years since then we have been busy. Volumes 5 and 6 have been running in parallel. Volume 5 was begun in January 2017; Volume 6 in March 2018, and is expected to be completed within the next few months.

Volume 5 is the first we have devoted a volume to aspects of the work of a single author and we have provided 11 articles totalling 415 pages. Our subject Alcide d'Orbigny seems to have been the first French "naturaliste-voyageur" of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris to make his own way, both on sea and on land. And he travelled and collected for a period well in excess of the three years that he was allotted. That this was possible was due in large measure to the support given to him in Bolivia by President Santa Cruz. Alcide was away from France for more than seven years, from the end of May 1826 until early 1834 (he himself recorded different dates for his disembarkation in Brest, but the evidence supports his arrival on 23 January). The museum expected him to collect virtually everything and to prepare maps and paint pictures to illustrate his journey. Letters to the museum took 4 to 6 months to reach Paris and letters to Alcide usually took longer to reach him because they had to be forwarded to him by a French Consul who, not knowing his current whereabouts, could not forward them promptly. This, and the fact that Alcide demanded that his decisions to expand the length of his trip be funded by the museum rather soured his relationship with the professors in Paris. After his return the Museum (MNHN) ensured that the French government provided funding for a multi-volume report, but very little help with that came from anyone at the museum. Alcide held no position there and was afforded minimal working space, and to provide an income he turned to palaeontology – a subject he had worked up with his father, and for which he had established a reputation before leaving for South America.

Eventually, the professors at the museum having passed him over for a professorship, it was the king who, in 1853, made him the museum's first Professor of Palaeontology – but he died only four years later at the age of 55. Charles Darwin, aboard the *Beagle*, travelled close to the coasts of Argentina and Bolivia during d'Orbigny's years in South America and his reports on "*The Zoology of the Voyage of the Beagle*" appeared between 1838 and 1844 and received more scientific acclaim than d'Orbigny's travelogue – supposedly completed in 1847, but actually left significantly incomplete. Because d'Orbigny tackled the birds early, in conjunction with Baron Noel Frédéric Lafresnaye in a journal, very many of the birds they named were being given scientific names for the first time. Research into the spellings, authorship and dates of publication was a compelling challenge. Sadly, no sympathetic

biography has appeared in French. In English he received a lengthy tribute in relation to his work in palaeontology in the early 20th century written by Edward Heron-Allen, President of the Royal Microscopical Society.

Volume 6 awaits one final paper for completion making again a total of 11 articles. These will total not much over 160 pages (our minimum volume length).

We are grateful to the Biodiversity Heritage Library for carrying back volumes of *Zoological Bibliography* and we are assured that both volumes 4 and 5, when the latter is complete, will, with the help of Connie Rinaldo, be fairly swiftly added to the four volumes already made available.

Our Editorial Board has been enriched by the presence of Paul Clark and Graham Arader and I am very grateful to board members for the advice given me.

Referees: we are most grateful to the following zoologists for providing us with peer reviews: Patrice Bouchard *, Roger Bour *, Rosendo Fraga, Justin Jansen, Mary LeCroy, Michel Louette, Richard Mearns, Svetlana Nikolaeva *, Manuel Plenge, Rich Pyle, Renata Stopiglia, Ray Williams * and three anonymous referees. All papers in this volume benefited from the generous and pertinent advice received. Asterisked referees are editorial board members.

Board changes: since December 2015 we have been very happy to add Graham Arader and Paul Clark to the Editorial Board. Roger Bour announced that he had a terminal illness and we are saddened to have lost his help. We shall carry an Obituary for Roger at the end of volume 6. At this moment with the pandemic affecting all our countries we sincerely hope that all our board members, referee panel and readers will take all appropriate measures to protect themselves as far as is possible and will come through safely.

Edward Dickinson

April 2020