

it is an oscine passerine, though much lower in the scale than the Fringilidae with which Dr. Allen associated it. Lacking the skull it is very difficult to place it definitely though from the structure of the feet and the size of the wings and tail Dr. Wetmore regards it as belonging among the most primitive of the song birds and erects a new family, *Palaeospizidae*, for it. In this connection he also discusses the upper mandible of a bird from the Miocene of Kansas which was described by Dr. Shufeldt as *Palaeospiza hatcheri*. This Dr. Wetmore finds to be a true Finch of the *Zonotrichiae* group, in no way closely related to *Palaeospiza*, and in order to give its proper position he proposes a new genus for it, *Palaeostruthus*.

In another paper¹ he discusses fossil birds from the Green River deposits of eastern Utah in the collection of the Carnegie Museum. A new genus *Nautilornis* is proposed for two Auk-like birds *N. avus* (p. 392) and *N. proavitus* (p. 394) while another bird somewhat like an Avocet is called *Presbyornis prevetus* (p. 396) both species, genus and a family *Presbyornithidae* being proposed as new.

A third paper² has to do with a fossil Hawk from the Miocene of Sioux Co., Nebraska, also in the Carnegie Museum, which is described as *Gera-noaetus ales* (p. 403).

Of an entirely different character is a most interesting account³ of Dr. Wetmore's visit to the smaller less known islands of the Hawaiian group, profusely illustrated with excellent photographic reproductions from his own camera and that of Mr. Donald R. Dickey who accompanied him.—W. S.

Helms on the Birds of Angmagsalik.—The colony of Angmagsalik on the east coast of Greenland was established in 1894 with Johan Petersen, well known as an explorer of this bleak shore, as its superintendent. During his long residence dating to 1915 and a subsequent visit of a year, 1923-24, he studied the bird life of the vicinity and sent back collections and field notes to the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen.

In the paper⁴ before us Mr. O. Helms has reported on these collections and data, presenting an interesting summary of the ornithology of this remote spot with an account of the country and a brief historical outline of its exploration. The list of birds numbers 73 species—16 Ducks and Geese, a Ptarmigan, 2 Grebes, 2 Loons, a Fulmar, 3 Rails, 15 Shore-birds

¹ Fossil Birds from the Green River Deposits of Eastern Utah. By Alexander Wetmore, *Annals Carnegie Mus.*, XVI. No. 3-4. April 10, 1926 pp. 391-400, pl. XXXVI-VII.

² Description of a Fossil Hawk from the Miocene of Nebraska. *Ibid.* pp. 403-406, pl. XXXVIII. April 10, 1926.

³ Bird Life Among Lava Rock and Coral Sand. *Nat. Geogr. Mag.* July, 1925, 77-108.

⁴ The Birds of Angmagsalik. By O. Helms. Based upon the Collections and Notes of Johan Petersen. With a Map. (*Saertryk af Meddelelser om Groenland, LVIII*) Copenhagen. Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri. 1926. pp. 207-274.

and Plover, 7 Gulls and Terns, 5 Auks, the Cormorant, 4 Hawks, 2 Owls, 3 Crows and 2 Swallows together with the Starling, Pipit, Wagtail, Redwing and Wheatear and 4 Finches. No less than 30 are European species, while 6 are peculiar to Greenland though merely geographical races of European forms and 37 are common to Europe and northern North America, though more common in the former and of Palaearctic origin. From this summary one is more than ever impressed with the fact that the affiliation of the Greenland fauna, especially that of east Greenland, is distinctly with the Old World.

Dr. Helms has prepared a valuable and interesting report which must be consulted by anyone interested in the arctic fauna. His comments on some of American allies of Greenland birds are however a little amusing as for instance his statement that we might expect the Swan of Greenland to be *Cygnus buccinator* rather than the European race *C. cygnus*. He follows Shiöler in regarding the Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur of Greenland as peculiar local races, as in the case of the breeding Mallards, which is very interesting if the birds to the east and west of them are identical, as they to all appearances are in the Mallards. It would be worth while to ascertain whether the two forms can be distinguished among the winter visitants to more southern countries.—W. S.

Riley on Birds from Yunnan and Szechwan.—The U. S. National Museum has received a collection of some 1600 birds from the provinces of Yunnan and Szechwan, China, made by Dr. Joseph F. Rock in connection with the explorations of the National Geographical Society during March 1923–February 1924.

Mr. Riley has identified and studied the collection and has described several new forms from it and he now presents a complete report¹ with notes on the plumages and relationship of the 244 species. All of the specimens are listed but there are no field notes.

The paper forms a valuable contribution to the ornithology of an interesting and none too well known portion of China, and those who are interested in following the itinerary of the party are referred to Dr. Rock's interesting papers in the 'National Geographic Magazine' Vol. 46, pp. 473–499 and Vol. 47, pp. 447–492.

Swarth on the Birds and Mammals of the Atlin Region, B. C.²—This is another of Mr. Swarth's admirable reports on the zoology of the Northwest. The expedition described was undertaken through the generosity of Miss Annie Alexander in the interests of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. While making the investigations alone, so far as the Museum was concerned, Mr. Swarth had

¹ A Collection of Birds from the Provinces of Yunnan and Szechwan, China, made for the National Geographic Society by Dr. Joseph F. Rock. By J. H. Riley. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol. 70. Art. 5. pp. 1–70. 1926.

² Report on a Collection of Birds and Mammals from the Atlin Region, Northern British Columbia. By Harry S. Swarth.