

sonal observations of the authors in the vicinity of Portland, Oregon, as, curiously enough, very little seems to have been published on the bird-life of the city and its environs.

The area covered by the list covers parts of the valleys of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, and Sauvie's Island, and "forms a typical cross section of the Humid Transition Zone of Oregon." The 187 birds are divided into Residents 55, Summer Residents 43; Winter Visitants 33 and Transients 56.

The annotations cover distribution, records of rare species, migration and nesting data. The list will prove of great value as a work of reference and should stimulate study of the local avifauna by residents of Portland.—W. S.

Wetmore's Classification of the Birds of the World.—An outline of the classification of North American birds was prepared several years ago by Dr. Wetmore and the late W. DeWitt Miller for the new A. O. U. Check-List (Auk, 1926, p. 327). Dr. Wetmore has now extended this scheme¹ to include the birds of the entire world and the classification is carried down to families. It is very convenient to have this publication as interest in foreign birds is constantly increasing in America and our ornithologists naturally wish to know where the exotic families would come in our North American list. The fossil families are also included.—W. S.

Miller on Fossil Passeres from Rancho La Brea.—This is a report² on the remains of Passerine birds of the famous asphalt beds of California in the collection of the University of California. Ten families are represented by sixteen species but only eight are definitely identified specifically—the Horned Lark, Yellow-billed Magpie, Raven, Crow, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, and Western Meadowlark, while one *Euphagus magnirostris* (p. 14), a Blackbird, is described as new. There were also remains of a Kingbird, Jay, Chickadee, Thrasher, Bluebird and Oriole.

Upon the evidence of present distribution of the species Mr. Miller infers that the Rancho La Brea fauna was Lower Sonoran.—W. S.

Zimmer on *Piranga flava*.—This paper³ presents an exhaustive study of the Tanagers formerly referred to several species, *testacea*, *hepatica*, *saira*, *azarae*, etc. It seems that *Saltator flavus* Vieillot is an older name for *Piranga azarae* d'Orbigny and also the oldest name for any of the forms concerned. In Mr. Zimmer's opinion all of these should be regarded as

¹ A Systematic Classification for the Birds of the World. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 76, Art. 24, pp. 1-8. January 8, 1930.

² The Passerine Remains from Rancho La Brea in the Paleontological Collections of the University of California. By Alden H. Miller, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol. Sciences, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 1-22, plate 1. 1929.

³ A Study of the Tooth-billed Red Tanager, *Piranga flava*. By John T. Zimmer. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. 269 Zool. Series, Vol. xvii, No. 5. December 18, 1929. Pp. 169-219, plate 1.