

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 scheme<sup>1</sup> 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 report<sup>2</sup> 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 paper<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

subspecies, and he therefore recognizes thirteen subspecies of *Piranga flava*, one of which *P. f. albifacies* (p. 205) is here proposed as new.

Our North American Hepatic Tanager thus becomes *Piranga flava hepatica* while the northern race *oreophasma* separated by Oberholser he considers unwarranted.—W. S.

**Meise on Bird Types in the Dresden Museum.**—This is the first installment<sup>1</sup> of another of the catalogues of types which are now being put out by various museums and which are of the greatest benefit to systematic workers as they enable them to have comparisons made with type specimens the whereabouts—or even the actual existence—of which, they were in ignorance. The present paper covers the Crows, Birds of Paradise, Starlings, Orioles, Drongos, Shrikes and Swallow-Shrikes. Dr. Meise is to be thanked for undertaking this publication.—W. S.

**De Schauensee on Siamese Birds.**—As a result of an expedition to northern Siam, undertaken October 1928–January 1929, in the interests of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Mr. deSchauensee secured a collection of 750 skins representing 255 species and the present paper<sup>2</sup> is a report on this material. The collecting was done mainly at Chieng Mai and Doi Soutep. Measurements of each species are presented with annotations regarding distribution, habits, and relationship. The new forms secured were previously described and have already been noticed in these columns. The paper is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a comparatively little known section.—W. S.

**Publications on Bird Banding.**—Messrs. F. C. Lincoln and S. Prentiss Baldwin have prepared an excellent 'Manual for Bird Banders',<sup>3</sup> in which is contained all the information that could possibly be desired concerning this phase of bird study. Methods, traps, cages, records, tools, etc., etc. receive careful consideration, while an abundance of illustrations assists in making everything clear. The pamphlet at once places in the hands of the prospective bird bander all the information that he will require to carry on the work and should stimulate many people, who may hesitate to take it up because they are unformed as to the procedure. It is published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Another important step in the history of bird banding is the enlargement of the publication of the Northeastern Society and its support by two

<sup>1</sup> Verzeichnis der Typen des Staatlichen Museums für Tierkunde in Dresden, 2 Teil., Vogel I., von Dr. Wilhelm Meise. Abh. und Berichte der Mus. f. Tierk. und Völk. zu Dresden. Band XVII (1927–1929), December 30, 1929. Pp. 1–22.

<sup>2</sup> A Further Collection of Birds from Siam. By Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila. Vol. lxxxi, 1929. Pp. 523–538.

<sup>3</sup> Manual for Bird Banders. By Frederick C. Lincoln and S. Prentiss Baldwin. Misc. Publ. No. 58. U. S. Dept. Agriculture. November, 1929. Pp. 1–112. Price 30 cents. (Supt. of Documents, Wash., D. C.)