

cation¹ issued under authority of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, presents an exhaustive study of the Double-crested Cormorant based on personal experience, wide correspondence, and a study of the literature. The past history of the bird, so far as it can be traced, is anything but complementary to man. It was never a bird that attracted much interest or sentiment and consequently all sorts of bad habits were attributed to it, of which it was quite innocent. "For one reason or another or for no reason at all" says Mr. Lewis "the Double-crested Cormorants have been continually and persistently persecuted." They have been shot, their eggs destroyed, and young massacred in flocks. Indians today live on their meat and eggs and both old and young birds are used to feed sledge dogs and captive foxes. Many colonies in Canada are now protected but most of the depredations occur outside the sanctuaries.

A thorough study of the whole situation proves that the Cormorants are practically harmless. The only charge against them that can be substantiated is that they enter pound nets but this can be avoided by fishing with other nets and methods, as is fully explained, and if this is not feasible a control of the birds is all that is required not senseless extermination.

Beside the economic question Mr. Lewis' paper presents a mass of information relative to the life history of the Cormorant containing much that is new. The present remaining nesting grounds of the bird are in two distinct sections; one in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec and the other in the interior region of Lake Superior, Alberta, Minnesota, the Dakotas, etc., with an outlying colony on Great Salt Lake, Utah. Birds of the Atlantic colony winter on the coast from Long Island to Florida while the interior colony winters on the Gulf Coast from Texas to western Florida.

The habits of the birds, nesting, food, etc., etc., are described in a most interesting manner, and at length, and the paper constitutes a veritable monograph of this interesting if unattractive bird. While we rightly consider it as a "water bird" today, Mr. Lewis is of the opinion, from many pieces of evidence, that it was not so originally, but adopted its aquatic habit later in its history.

An excellent bibliography completes the paper, which will be our authority on the Double-crested Cormorant for many years to come.—W. S.

Jewett and Gabrielson on Birds of Portland.—This publication², constituting Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 19, is based mainly upon the per-

¹ The Natural History of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson)). A Thesis presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of Cornell University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By Harrison Flint Lewis. Ithaca, New York. May, 1929. Pp. 1-84. Price 75 cents. (Order from H. C. Miller, 175 Nepean St., Ottawa, Canada.)

² Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 19. Birds of the Portland Area, Oregon. By Stanley G. Jewett and Ira N. Gabrielson. Berkeley, California. Published by the Club, December 27, 1929. Pp. 1-54. Price \$2.00.

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.