

animal life in eastern North America with regard to its general environment, and makes the claim that while "temperature unquestionably does exert an influence in the distribution of living beings, . . . it is not the supreme cause of the present phase of dispersal." There is much to be said on this subject and Dr. Trotter's views are well worthy of careful consideration. It is fortunately true that by whatever names we call them and whatever rank we give them the larger life areas remain practically the same in all recent discussions. At the same time however we must recognize that there are in Eastern North America certain lines of demarkation in plant life due to causes other than temperature, and the regions thus separated carry with them corresponding differences in their animal life. Furthermore the boundary lines are far more pronounced than those separating certain zones based on purely climatic conditions. Like many another problem there are probably several factors involved, and we must consider each of them, if we are finally to arrive at a proper understanding of conditions as we find them.—W. S.

**Thayer and Bangs on Chinese Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—This paper is a report upon a collection of 3135 beautifully prepared skins representing 358 species and subspecies obtained by Mr. W. R. Zappey in Central China. One new genus, five new species and seven new subspecies are described as follows: *Ithagines wilsoni*, *Callocalia inopina pellos*, *Heteroxenicus cruralis formaster*, *Tesia grillator*, *Suthora unicolor canaster*, *Suthora zappeyi*, *Præpyga mutica*, *Oreocincla dauma socia*, *Reguloides maculipennis debilis*, *Prinia inornata exater*, *Sylviparus modestus occultus*, *Boanerges* (gen. nov. allied to *Perisoreus*), *internigrans*, all from western Szechwan. Eight additional new forms from this collection were described in a previous paper<sup>2</sup> and one in a later one.<sup>3</sup> Full lists of localities from which specimens are obtained and often brief notes on plumage and habitat are given in the present contribution while there are some comments of a nomenclatorial character. *Hypsipetes* is found to be preoccupied and *Microscelis* is used instead but no further details or references are presented; *Dumeticola* is recognized as distinct from *Tribura*; *Chloris* is used in preference to *Ligurinus*; *Propasser* is not deemed worthy of recognition.—W. S.

**Bangs on Some Birds from the Highlands of Siberia.**<sup>4</sup>—In this paper Mr. Bangs reports on a collection of 287 bird skins obtained by Messrs. N. Hollister and Conrad Kein who accompanied Dr. Theodore

<sup>1</sup> Some Chinese Vertebrates. Memoirs Mus. Comp. Zool. Vol. XL, No. 4. Aves, By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs, pp. 137–200. pl. 3–6. August, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 1909, p. 139–141.

<sup>3</sup> Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 95–96. May 3, 1913.

<sup>4</sup> Some Birds from the Highlands of Siberia. By Outram Bangs, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LIV., pp. 463–474. January, 1913.