

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.¹—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*, *Oreocinclæ 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 paper² and one in a later one.³ 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.⁴—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

¹ 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.

² Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 1909, p. 139–141.

³ Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 95–96. May 3, 1913.

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

Lyman on an expedition to the Altai Mountains of Siberia and Mongolia, and which was presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

The list includes 52 species and subspecies of which the following are described as new: *Falco æsalon lymani*, *Pinicola enucleator pacata*, and *Perisoreus infaustus opicus*.—W. S.

Thayer and Bangs on a New Race of Great Blue Heron.¹—The specimens upon which this form — *Ardea herodias sancti-luceæ* — is based were obtained by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr. in 1910 from a 'rookery' discovered on Espiritu Santo Island. It is very much like the bird of the Galapagos *A. b. cognata* but much larger. — W. S.

Bangs on New Species of Birds.—Mr. Outram Bangs has recently published descriptions of a number of new birds from various parts of the world. In one paper² are described *Rupornis magnirostris occidua*, eastern Peru; *Penelope perspicax*, western Colombia; *Antrostomus rufus otiosus*, St. Lucia, W. I.; *Thamnophilus doliatus catus*, Margarita Isl., Venezuela; *Pyrocephalus rubinus blatteus*, British Honduras; and *Leistes superciliaris petilus*, Uruguay. As regards the *Pyrocephalus* the reviewer pointed out the difference between the birds of Yucatan and Orizaba in collections made by him, in 1890 but the material in the U. S. National Museum seemed to show that the two forms were not confined to definite geographic areas and were perhaps merely individual variations.

In the collection of Palestine birds made by Selah Merrill and recently acquired by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. Bangs found an undescribed swift³ which he calls *Apus melba petrensis*; while in the Henry Bryant Collection two Song Sparrows taken at Enterprise, Florida in 1859 seem to constitute a distinct resident race which is named *Melospiza melodia beata*.⁴ They have "enormous bills, that cannot be matched in a series of over one hundred skins from points in eastern North America." The culmen measures respectively 14 and 13 mm. while Ridgway's average of 41 specimens of *M. m. melodia* is 12.45 mm. (11.43 to 13.21). From Cuba are described⁵ *Podilymbus podiceps antillarum*, *Limnopardalis maculatus inoptatus*, *Cyanerpes cyaneus ramsdeni* and in the same paper

¹ A New Race of Great Blue Heron from Espiritu Santo Island, Lower California. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 83-84. February 23, 1912.

² Descriptions of New American Birds. By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XXIV, pp. 187-190. June 23, 1911.

³ A New Swift from Palestine, By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXIV, pp. 195-196. June 23, 1911.

⁴ The Florida Song Sparrow. By Outram Bangs, Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 85-87, June 5, 1912.

⁵ New Birds from Cuba and the Isle of Pines, By Outram Bangs, Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 89-92, March 31, 1913.