

nomial system of Linnæus, and by adding a third term as name of the subspecies to make it a trinomial one. Wherever a three-term name is used, it is that of a subspecies of the original binomial form. The first specimen described, or the first specimen to which a name has been attached, is regarded as the so-called "Type" form. Therefore, in dividing a species into subspecies the form which was first named as a species becomes automatically the type race, and its subspecific name is formed by a repetition of its specific name. Thus the American Robin that was first described and specifically named by Linnæus in 1766 as *migratorius* when mentioned subspecifically in distinction from the Southern Robin or the western one becomes *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. The Western Robin first separated from it by Ridgeway in 1877, was named by him as *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*, and the Southern Robin by Bachelder in 1900, is *Planesticus migratorius achrusterus*. In practice, where the generic or specific names are evident from the context, it is customary to indicate them by initial, as *P. migratorius*, or *P. m. migratorius*.

Subspecific varieties are divisions of the species and, except in special lines of work, or where special exactitude is necessary, of minor importance. As these subspecies are also often based upon points of difference only perceptible to the most experienced observers, they generally lie outside the sphere of interest of the average amateur observer.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

The broader facts of the geographical distribution of life are patent to the most casual observer. The primary divisions of distribution, the Tropics, Temperate, and Arctic zones are obvious, but closer study shows that within these broad associations minor and less obvious ones can be detected. In America, north of the gulf of Mexico, there are three life regions, roughly following the above, called the Tropic, the Austral, and the Boreal regions. These are subdivided into life zones each characterized by its own peculiar assemblages of plants and animals.

The Tropic region is sufficiently characterized by name and need be only mentioned.

The Austral region corresponds roughly to the popular geographical conception of the Temperate zone. It is divided into three life zones, the Lower Austral, the Upper Austral, and the Transition zones. The Lower Austral might be designated as subtropic and extends north including the gulf and the south Atlantic states, not occurring in Canada at all. The Upper Austral is the first that we are directly interested in in eastern Canada, it merely crosses the border on the lake Erie shore and includes the famous Niagara fruit belt. The frequent or regular occurrence of numerous southern species on Pelee point in Essex county, Ontario, marks the strongest development of this zone in the Dominion. It slightly touches our southern boundary again in Saskatchewan and perhaps some of the warmer valleys running into southern British Columbia. The northernmost Austral or Temperate life zone is the Transition zone which includes the greater part of the more highly cultivated areas of Canada. It occupies the shores of the bay of Fundy, the upper St. Lawrence river, southern Quebec and Ontario, the lower sections of the prairie provinces, and a