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THE
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OF
B I R D S ;

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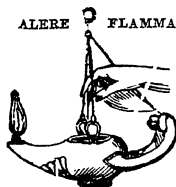
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BY

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THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION
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It is now nearly thirty-four years ago since I read before the Linnean Society of London a memoir on the geographical distribution of the Class of Birds (1), in which, after a preliminary discussion upon the subject, I pointed out what I considered to be a most natural way of dividing the earth's surface, looking only to the distribution of the families, genera, and species of the Class of Birds as our guide. In the first place I showed that, as regards their bird-life, Europe and Northern Asia are quite inseparable, the same or nearly the same avifauna extending all across the temperate portion of the Old World from England to Japan. Again I pointed out that Africa north of the Atlas, along the southern shores of the Mediterranean, also belonged to Europe zoologically, and not to the continent to which it is physically joined. I therefore maintained that we must consider Africa north of the Atlas, Europe, and Northern Asia to form one primary division of the earth's surface, to which the name "PALÆARCTIC REGION" would be best applicable.

The great continent of Africa, after cutting off the portion north of the Atlas, would form, as I showed, a second well-