

1st. The fauna of Europe, which is very closely related to that of the United States proper.

2d. The fauna of Siberia, separated from the fauna of Europe by the Ural Mountains.

3d. The fauna of the Asiatic table-land, which, from what is as yet known of it, appears to be quite distinct.

4th. The fauna of China and Japan, which is analogous to that of Europe in the Birds, and to that of the United States in the Reptiles — as it is also in the flora.

Lastly, it is in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere that we meet with the most striking example of those local faunas which have been mentioned above. Such, for example, is the fauna of the Caspian Sea, of the steppes of Tartary, and of the Western prairies.

432. The faunas of the southern temperate regions differ from those of the tropics as much as the northern temperate faunas do; and, like them also, may be distinguished into two provinces, the colder of which embraces Patagonia. But besides differing from the tropical faunas, they are also quite unlike each other on the different continents. Instead of that general resemblance, that family likeness which we have noticed between all the faunas of the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, we find here the most complete contrasts. Each of the three continental peninsulas which jut out southerly into the ocean represents, in some sense, a separate world. The animals of South America, beyond the tropic of Capricorn, are in all respects different from those at the southern extremity of Africa. The hyenas, wild-boars, and rhinoceroses of the Cape of Good Hope have no analogues on the American continent; and the difference is equally great between the birds, reptiles and fishes, insects and mollusks. Among the most characteristic animals of the southern extremity of America are peculiar species of seals and especially, among aquatic birds, the penguins.