

transport themselves with greater ease, and with the interposition of fewer obstacles, than the quadrupeds the theatre of whose motion is the earth, intersected by rivers and mountain ridges, which renders their periodical transit less easy to accomplish. The number of birds that migrate, if we take Dr. Richardson's scale, for those of North America, as a rule, compared with those that reside the whole year in a country, is about five-sixths, a very large proportion; but as the summer residents are replaced by winter ones, the difference is less striking, and the desertion less apparent and annoying. The celebrated Dr. Jenner, in a very ingenious posthumous paper, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1824, has produced many arguments to prove that the periodical migrations of birds are the result, not of the approach of the cold or hot seasons, but of the absence or presence of a stimulus connected with the original law, "*Increase and multiply.*" That when they feel it they seek their *summer*, and when it ceases its action, their *winter* quarters. In one case, the animal winging its way to a climate and country best suited to the great purpose impressed upon it by its Creator, of producing and rearing a progeny; and in the other returning to a home, most congenial to its nature and best supplying its wants.

The cause of emigration, in both cases, had previously been attributed to the changes of the temperature gradually produced by the change of seasons, and the growing scarcity of food resulting from it. But Mr. Jenner has observed that these cannot be the causes that occasion the migration of those birds that leave us early in the year, as the cuckoo,\* which disappears in the beginning of July; and the swift,† which takes its departure early in the following month. At these times they can feel no cold blast to benumb them,

\* *Cuculus canorus.*

† *Cypselus apus.*