

Vieillot says, that all the swallows do not quit the warm countries to which they betake themselves in winter—that one part migrates, while another remains stationary, during the whole year, in Egypt, Ethiopia, and other tropical countries and islands.

But, besides the insectivorous emigrators, many of the higher and more powerful tribes are accustomed to change one country for another. When the carcasses of animals putrefy, and birds multiply under the influence of the northern sun, vultures, eagles, falcons, hawks, &c. leave the south, and go to partake of the feasts provided for them in higher latitudes.

But, besides the birds that visit us during the more genial part of the year, and add so greatly to the beauty and music of our groves in spring and summer, there are others, and those a numerous tribe, that wing hither their way when the reign of winter has commenced. The most numerous of these are the birds which the Author of nature has fitted to disport themselves and seek their food in the water, or which frequent humid and watery places. When the Arctic seas, and lakes, and rivers, present an unbroken field of impenetrable ice, the various web-footed birds, the swans* and geese,† and ducks‡ and divers,§ and coots,|| and an infinity of others, forming their angular and sometimes triangular phalanxes, each in turn taking the lead and first cutting the air,¶ fly off, often at a great height, to seek in more southern climates, not a region devoid of the usual concomitants of winter, frost and snow, but where their rigours are mitigated, so as to afford to these creatures the means of life. Now, also the waders, usually distinguished by their long legs and long beaks, as the woodcock,** the

* *Cygnus.* † *Anser.* ‡ *Anas.* § *Mergus* and *Colymbus.*

|| *Fulica.*

¶ *N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xx. 544.*

** *Rusticola vulgaris, Vieill.* *Numenius arquatus, Lath.*