

curlew, and the snipes, * leave their native marshes and haunts to seek others whose unfrozen or partially frozen morasses afford them a supply of the worms and vermicles or similar animals that form their usual nutriment. Many a time, when a boy, have I pursued the field-fare, † which is one of our winter guests, from tree to tree, without its affording me an opportunity of taking aim at it, as if it was aware of my purpose, and could smell the contents of my musket; no sooner did I get within a couple of hundred yards, than, with all its company, it flew a little further, and thus kept tantalizing me for hours, without my even being able to secure one. These birds, if the weather becomes very severe here, are said to fly further south in search of food, and to return again.

Thus, we see the change of seasons brings with it a change in the winged inhabitants of every country; and the winter immigration of a vast variety of birds, fit for food and other useful purposes, makes up in some degree for the summer or autumnal emigration of those, which being constantly before our eyes moving in every direction, and rendering vocal every grove or tree and even the very heavens, entertain our senses of seeing and hearing in a most delightful manner. Thus, also, all countries partake in some degree, by this shifting scene of animal life, of the same blessings and pleasures derived from the same instruments.

Though the production and rearing of their young forms a principal feature in most of the migrations before noticed, yet it is most prominent and conspicuous in the animals, whose annual motions I shall next advert to. And here mankind is more conspicuously indebted to the fatherly care and bounty of a beneficent Providence for a supply of

* *Scolopax Gallinago* and *Gallinula*.

† *Turdus pilaris*.