

to man, and most of the Mammalians—that of moving to and fro in the air as the fishes do in the water, which on that account, though they move also on the earth, are denominated, in the passage just quoted, the fowl of the *air*.

The animals of this great Class are rendered particularly interesting to man, not only because many of them form a portion of his domestic wealth, look to him as their master, and vary most agreeably his food; but because numbers, also, strike his senses by the eminent beauty and grace of their forms, the brilliancy or variety of the colours of their plumage, and the infinite diversity, according to their kinds, of their motions and modes of flight. But of all their endowments, none is more striking, and ministers more to his pleasure and delight, than their varied song. When *the time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land*, who can be dead to the goodness which has provided for *all* such an unbought orchestra, tuning the soul not only to joy, but to mutual goodwill; reviving all the best and kindest feelings of our nature, and calming, at least for a time, those that harmonize less with the scene before us?

I may here offer a few observations upon the *voice* of animals, especially birds. A distinction is made by physiologists between a *voice* and a *sound*, and none but those that breathe by means of *lungs* are reckoned to utter a *voice*; others, whatever their respiratory organs, only emit a *sound*. The voice also is from the *mouth* alone, and sound from *other* parts of the body.* The *vocal* animals, therefore, are confined to the three last classes of vertebrates—the *Reptiles*, the *Birds*, and the *Mammalians*. In most of these, also, the voice partakes, in some degree, of the character of *speech*; it is intended to indicate to another the wishes, emotions, or sufferings of the utterer. The great organ of the voice

* See Introd. to Ent. Lett. xxiv.