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CHAPTER I

BIRD-LAND

I HAVE been asked from time to time why I use the word 'Bird-land,' and some of my questioners have even wondered where Bird-land can be. I may say at once that by Bird-land I simply mean the woods, the fields, and the sea-shore. Bird-land is no secluded private park, nor safely guarded breeding haunt of my friends the birds; it is a name given to the country at large, and I chose the term because, although I am a lover of Nature in general, birds are my special favourites.

Yes, the whole of the country is Bird-land, whether it be on the mountain-top, on the marsh, or elsewhere. With what a variety of scenes have I found my feathered companions surrounded! infinitely diversified, but all beautiful. I can see beauty and the hand of an infinite and