

great degree that variety. And conformably we find they have most engaged the attention of mankind in past ages, before subsequent researches had developed the great sagacity of insects, and had facilitated the knowledge of them, and rendered them interesting by systematic arrangements, and a delineation of their generic and specific characters\*.

Of the different habits of birds which naturalists have employed themselves to investigate, their local habitation or places of residence have been always a principal subject of their studies. Some remain all the year round in one part of the world, as the sparrow, the rook, the magpie, the owl, and most rapacious birds. Others change their habitations in the same country, in quest of food, and shift their quarters without travelling to any great distance; as the wagtail and the redbreast; and the wild geese and ducks, which come to the southward parts of our island at the approach of winter. Other birds cross the seas, and migrate to far distant countries, as the soland goose, the

\* I allude particularly to the interesting accounts of Hüber on Bees, and on Ants.