PART ONE

LYRIC LOCALITY
The twilight song of the wood pewee appears to have no territorial function and is said to be independent of the breeding cycle, and the daytime song also continues long after the end of the breeding season. Similarly, in many species of American song birds, the lengthening, elaboration, and sometimes complete change in the song after the end of the nesting period is noteworthy, and these changes often seem, to our ears, to take the form of aesthetic improvement.—W W. Thorpe, Bird Song

Forests spread  
Brooks plunge  
Rocks persist  
Mist diffuses  
Meadows wait  
Springs well  
Winds dwell  
Blessing muses

Martin Heidegger, The Thinker as Poet

Nature may be cooked into all shapes, and not recognized. Mountains and oceans we think we understand;—yes, so long as they are contented to be such, and are safe with the geologist; but when they are melted in Promethean alembics, and come out men; and then, melted again, come out words, without any abatement but with an exaltation of power—!—Emerson, Journal “O,” for April 1846

The Poet should instal himself and shove all usurpers from their chairs by electrifying mankind with the right tone, long wished for, never heard. The true centre thus appearing, all false centres are suddenly superseded, and grass grows in the Capitol.—Emerson, Journal for 27 June 1846