

to the safety of the young ; he seems to think more of saving his own colours, which he changes here by the first week in August. After that date the plumage of male and female, old and young, is very nearly the same, and they congregate in flocks of hundreds which resort to some favorite place to roost at night. During the latter half of August they begin the southward journey, and their "pink," "pink," is often heard high overhead, so high indeed that the birds are indiscernable to the naked eye.

SOIRÉES.

The first Soirée of the season was held in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School on the evening of Dec 12th. In the absence of Dr. MacCabe, an address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Sinclair.

Dr. Robert Bell in his Presidential address "On the Extinction of Useful Animals in Modern Times," referred to the general tendency to extinction of all species of animals which had obtained throughout zoological time, and showed that while in a state of nature a balance was generally maintained any interference by man accelerated the tendency towards extinction. Prof. Macoun, Mr. Shutt and Mr. Halkett also spoke briefly.

As is usual at the opening Soirée of the Club's lecture season, a portion of the evening was devoted to the exhibition of natural history objects and microscopic slides. Several members of the Club had loaned microscopes, and these added not a little to the interest and success of the meeting.

A mounted collection of perennial plants suitable for Ottawa, grown at the Experimental Farm, was exhibited by Mr. W. T. Macoun, and a very beautiful collection of fifty water colour paintings of Manitoba plants were shown by Dr. Fletcher with the artist's permission. These were painted by Mr. Norman Criddle of Ameme, Man., and attracted much attention not only on account of their artistic merit but also for their scientific accuracy.

Mr. Odell's living specimens of reptiles, and Mr. Halkett's living fish were among the most interesting objects shown.

The next Soirée will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Assembly Hall, when Dr. R. A. Daly will read a paper "On the Relation of Geology to Geography," illustrated by lantern slides.