

birds have generally shown themselves intensely gregarious, and it is quite unusual for them to over-flow in this manner.

SWALLOWS.

The recent autumn-like weather with clear or cool nights and heavy dew has so shortened the supply of insect-life that most of the birds which take their food upon the wing are now showing evident signs of speedy departure. In various parts of the city large assemblies of Purple Martins have been observed wheeling for hours over some favourite district. Occasionally they may rest for a while perched in long ranks upon the Telephone wires, but each member when addressing the house rises to the wing and from the solemnity and yet earnestness of the whole proceeding it is clear that business of importance is being discussed.

When we recollect that 60 or 70 days hence must find them in Central or even South America, that this journey is to be made through all the tempestuous weather of autumn, and with a failing food-supply, and that more than one half of the company, the young of the year, are entirely without experience of long flights, it will be seen how great responsibility rests upon the leaders in these great migrations.

The last week of August generally sees the departure of these and all the other species of swallows except the White-belly (*Tachycineta bicolor*). The latter the hardiest of all the family arrives a week earlier, stays at least as much later, and makes its winter home no further south than Louisiana and Mississippi.

BOTANY.

The following Rules for Botanical Nomenclature were drawn up at the recent meeting of the A. A. A. S. at Rochester, and will, we feel sure, be read with interest by our Botanists.

THE NEW RULES FOR BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE.

The Botanical Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at a meeting held Aug. 19th. 1892, adopted these principles of Nomenclature: *Resolved*: That the Paris code of 1867 be adopted except where it conflicts with the following:

1. THE LAW OF PRIORITY — Priority of publication is to be regarded as the fundamental principle of botanical nomenclature.