

however was not detected by the boys) and all at once the pigeons rose to some little height and went over the woods. The tail feathers of these birds, have a large handsome brick-red spot on inner web, and the children were in the habit of picking up these pretty feathers shed by the birds as they flew over. Although these tremendous flights going north, were an annual occurrence for days at a time, I cannot remember that I ever saw a single large flock going south. The reason for this has always been a problem when one considers the enormous numbers which come from the south each year.

The motion of these flocks was far more swift than that of any other bird I had ever seen, so swift in fact that one could detect that a flock was moving as soon as ever it came in sight—as a cloud in the distance; and as they passed by, one flock following another, it gave one the impression of battalions of soldiers following each other on the double.

Dr. Bethune then read some extracts from the *Canadian Naturalist*, Volume I, for 1857, prefacing them by a few remarks about the appearance of that magazine. Mr. Elkanah Billings, the editor, it seems had permission from the son of Audubon, and from some other naturalists, to use their writings in his magazine. Many very interesting details were brought out from these articles, one of which was rather startling when carefully considered; this was a calculation by Wilson of the number of birds which he saw pass a certain point in a given time one day in Kentucky, in which his final estimate was that the birds he had seen would consume seventeen million bushels of grain in a day. Wilson's writing referred to the nest of the pigeon as containing but one egg as a rule, but Mr. Billings, in a note, stated that the nests usually contained two eggs. Some of the members present had read definite reports each way, and Mr. Keays has a single egg which constituted the whole set, and was taken by his brother in Minnesota years ago. Dr. Bethune had never heard of breeding grounds being near the localities where he had lived, although stragglers were to be seen all summer.

Mr. J. J. Baker said that it is not over thirty years ago since roosting places existed about thirty miles northeast of Toronto.