

- Nov. 3.—*Regulus satrapa*, Golden-crowned Kinglet.
 4.—*Junco hiemalis*, Slate-coloured Junco.

Winter birds first seen :—

- Oct. 19.—*Acanthis linaria*, Redpoll.
 20.—*Parus hudsonicus*, Hudsonian Chickadee.
 29.—*Lanius borealis*, Northern Shrike.
 Nov. 1.—*Plectrophenax nivalis*, Snowflake.
 Dec. 22.—*Pinicola enucleator*, Pine Grosbeak.

WM. A. D. LEES, } *Leaders.*
 JOHN MACOUN,

OTTAWA, 14th March, 1890.

During the discussion which followed the reading of the above report, Prof. Macoun questioned the accuracy of the results obtained by Mr. Lees's system of observation with an opera glass, and asked for a detailed explanation of the system. Mr. Lees explained that, having first acquired from a study of the commoner birds a fair knowledge of the characters distinguishing the families or higher groups, each new species met, having been first assigned to its appropriate family or group, was carefully scrutinized with the aid of the glass, and its markings literally read off and compared with one after another of the descriptions in the text book, till one was found to correspond with it. In this way the list of unidentified species in each family was gradually narrowed down till it became comparatively easy to hit upon the proper description at once. In many cases the bird had to be carefully stalked and followed for some time, and in some it was not until it had been seen on several different occasions that it was finally and satisfactorily identified, the greatest care being taken to avoid mistakes. Besides the text-book, recourse was also had to the colored plates in De Kay's "Natural History of New York," and to the mounted specimens in the Geological Survey Museum. He also pointed out that two persons working together, as he and Mr. N. F. Ballantyne had done, could give mutual assistance of great value, one holding the glass and