

collections must prove very important educational factors, and that the study of the minerals, rocks, birds, animals and plants there displayed must exercise a very marked influence upon the minds of those whose tastes tend naturally in the direction of some of the branches of Natural History. The necessity of increased accommodation for the display of the contents of the Museum is pointed out, as also the danger to which these valuable collections, representing the work of half a century, are exposed in their present location. The report on the whole contains a very large amount of valuable information relating to the Mineral Resources and Natural History of the entire Dominion, and should have a wide circulation.

R. W. E.

ORNITHOLOGY.—*Brown Pelican*.—There has recently been added to the collection at the Geological Museum, a mounted specimen of the Brown pelican (*Pelecanus fuscus*), obtained by Dr. Ami from J. W. Hogg, Esq., of Pictou, N. S., by whom it was shot in May, 1892, on Pictou Island. It is a male bird, in breeding plumage and in excellent condition. Another specimen taken previously in the same locality, was to be seen in the museum of the Pictou Academy until its destruction by fire in the fall of 1894. Unlike the white species, which frequents the rivers and lakes of the interior, breeding largely in the Canadian North-West, the Brown pelican is a bird of the southern sea-coasts, and seldom penetrates further to the north than Long Island, N. Y. The two individuals above mentioned are believed to be the only ones on record for Canada. An allied species on the Pacific coast, the California brown pelican, sometimes visits British Columbia.

*Winter Birds*.—The Pine grosbeaks arrived at an unusually early date this winter, one being taken on 18th November by Mr. W. H. Thicke. Throughout the winter they have been present in larger numbers than in any previous season since 1888. They feed mostly on mountain-ash berries, but a complaint comes from the Experimental Farm of numerous depredations committed upon the buds of the Norway spruces.