

MEETING OF THE WHEATON CLUB.

The Club met in Biological Hall, Monday evening, April the twentieth. After the reading of the minutes there was a short business session in which, among other matters, the Club resolved to make efforts toward the better protection of birds in the University grounds. After the business session the Club spent most of the evening in a general discussion of the causes, routes and general phenomena of bird migration. Prof. Smith opened the discussion by a review of the articles published several years ago by Prof. W. W. Cooke upon "Bird Migrations in the Mississippi Valley." The investigations upon which this was based, could not, by reason of the physical features of the region studied, afford much light on the question of the existence or non-existence of particular bird routes. At this point Prof. Smith took occasion to state the conflicting theories upon this subject which are held by European ornithologists, some holding that birds migrate along special paths and others that they pass in a broad mare. The point covered to a fuller degree in the article reviewed was as to the effects of wind and temperature particularly the latter, upon migration flights and the author of the article seemed to consider the effect of temperature the more important. An article in the *American Naturalist* for September, 1902, upon "Bird Migrations" by Dr. C. C. Trowbridge was then briefly reviewed by Mr. Derby. This article which based its conclusions upon the observations of hawk migrations upheld the influence of wind in migration as opposed to temperature. Mr. Mead then presented a paper upon "The Great Auk." He first described the distribution of the bird and commented upon the fact that it occupied formally in the North Polar regions the position held by the Penguin in the South. He next took up the appearance and habits of the birds, speaking of its awkward movements, habit of flocking in great numbers, the fact that only a single egg was laid and other interesting details. He then described graphically the former abundance of the Auks and their wholesale destruction for the sake of the eggs, flesh and feathers by the sailors. The last live birds found were captured in 1844. In closing mention was made of the specimens in existence and of the value assigned to them. Prof. Hine called the attention of the Club to two records, made some years ago, of birds very rare in the state, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the Red-tailed Black Hawk, both taken in this region. In the line of personal observations Mr. Dawson reported several early records, among which were Hermit Thrush, March 15; Barn Swallows, April 4, and Bobolink and Chimney Swift, April 12.

WALTER J. DERBY, *Secretary.*