

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XII.

LONDON, ONT., OCTOBER, 1880.

No. 10

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN,—The past season has not been very eventful in Ontario in matters relating to insect life. No unusual armies of insect enemies have devastated our crops, and our farmers and fruit-growers, in spite of the few perennial foes, which are always more or less troublesome, have realized a bountiful harvest.

Early in the season cut-worms were very numerous in the neighborhood of London, more abundant than I ever remember seeing them before. They destroyed innumerable cabbage plants and other herbaceous plants and flowers; among the latter pansies seemed to possess great attraction for them. I saw many fine plants of this flower of the previous year's growth eaten close to the ground, both leaves and stalks, and from about the roots of a single plant found in several instances from thirty to fifty of the nearly full grown larvæ. Fortunately their period of activity does not last long, and before the end of June most of them were quietly sleeping in the chrysalis state.

The question of insectivorous birds, and their influence on the insect world about us, is attracting much attention, and the more the subject is discussed the more evident it becomes that very little indeed is *known* in reference to it; that our ideas as to what should guide us are largely inherited, or otherwise based on sentiment, rather than resting upon well ascertained facts. I am well aware that to plead in favor of the birds is a popular course to follow; but the true student of nature is ever seeking after truth, and whether the facts he discovers are in accord with long cherished opinions and popular fancies, or are directly opposed to them, are questions of little moment. The facts, whatever they may be, are what we want.

Insectivorous birds may be conveniently divided into three classes: First, those which take their food entirely on the wing; second, those which feed partly on the wing and partly from trees and shrubs, and on the ground; and third, those which take no food on the wing, but feed