

woods near Ottawa measured five-eighths of an inch in length. There is some motive for these varied proportions which as yet requires explanation. *Vespa maculata* invariably suspends its nest from the branches of beech and maple trees. These may be found common during some seasons between the months of July and October. The structural conformity of those of the second colony are remarkable from being only about half the size of the third—for there cannot be a doubt on my mind but that *maculata* constructs a third—and that is the large nest we find in the fall of the year, and the one in which the males are produced. It is during the season that the second form of nest is inhabited that these insects should be watched, and I am sorry that I have not had that opportunity, as I should have determined the existence or not of males at this period.

The parent wasps are very fond of building their nests in the neighborhood of our dwellings. Sometimes they are found attached to sheltered situations in out-houses, and their object in selecting these situations is no doubt to be close to localities where they can procure food to rear their young quickly. The entomologist may look for these little nests early in May; thenceforward he can find them in all stages of progress, but few will be found containing eggs before the 25th of May, which is about the time that the first egg is deposited. Larvæ appear about the 7th of June. *Vespa maculata* was the species prevalent in the woods near this city in the summer of 1868. Last year *Vespa germanica* was predominant, and I append two or three notes regarding them.

May 30th—Found a nest of *V. germanica* under a piece of old bark, on the ground. Appearance of nest similar to that of *V. maculata*. There was only one egg in the central cell.

June 7th—Found a second nest of *V. germanica*. It contained twelve cells, ten of which had eggs, and the two central contained larvæ, apparently hatched a few days previous. The eggs are attached to the inner wall at the bottom of each cell. This nest had three partitions of similar construction to that of *V. maculata*.

June 13th—Examined the nest found on the 30th ultimo. It appeared to have been increased by an additional envelope. In taking up the piece of bark and holding the aperture so that the rays of the sun could enter it, I detected larvæ in the central cells, but they were very small. When I first found this nest, the parent came out and flew about my head, but on this occasion I had to blow into the aperture ere she came out, and when she did there was no fear exhibited, nor did she fly away, but stood on the outside of the wall while I examined the interior.

One part of the history of this species, I am sorry to say, I have not had an opportunity to investigate—that is, their economy while in the second nest, for I believe that it is during this stage of progress that a true account of the individuals which constitute the colony can be determined. Here we could, no