

caught some years ago, just emerging from a spot where I had previously marked a *Cicindela* burrow, and as the latter was no longer present I suspect the fly of having been the cause, particularly as Prof. V. E. Shelford records an allied genus as preying upon the larvæ of tiger beetles. Several other species are known to be parasitic, and one has the distinction of destroying locust eggs.

Lastly, as part of the fauna, there is a very beautiful spider (*Geolycosa*) which burrows large holes in the sand, as winter approaches going down five or six feet, but at this time they are comparatively shallow and the females are often but a few inches down with a host of young clinging to their backs. When disturbed with a straw they bite it savagely, and can bite hard too, but curiously enough they have a mortal dread of the various black wasps found later on, which usually paralyze and make use of them for food. I have seen the spiders make frantic efforts to escape from a wasp half their size and eventually when escape was impossible, turn over on their backs and fight, but they fought in despair with the knowledge of almost certain death awaiting them, and thus it always ended. The wasp while keeping at a safe distance was eventually able to use her sting, and soon after was dragging the spider to her burrow.

CATERPILLARS AS WEATHER PROPHEETS.

In a Toronto newspaper there recently appeared an article taken from the "New York American," in which a forecast is given of the weather during the approaching winter, stating that "after the most intense cold weather we have experienced for years we shall have a mild spell and great thaws and floods; we shall have a very late and backward spring, with real winter at the time we should have fine spring-like weather. The caterpillar shows light in front, followed with a very well-defined spot of considerable size, and this dark indicates our mid-winter snap. Then the light appears again, and this indicated the warm spell, and if there was no more dark there would be a prospect of a very early spring, but another dark spot appears toward the rear of the caterpillar, and this will bring the late and unseasonable cold at a time we should have our mild weather."