

close range and finally almost touched it with the hand without its flying. The following morning the owls were all gone. We worked the thickets well for them but without finding a single bird. With them disappeared a number of Long and Short-eared Owls that were haunting the same localities the day previous and which we strongly suspected were to blame for the death of the two or three little owls whose remains we ran across in the course of our rambles.

POPULAR ENTOMOLOGY.

THE LUNA MOTH.

BY ARTHUR GIBSON.

Among the many kinds of beautiful insects which occur in North America, there are none which attract more general attention, when seen for the first time, than the large moths known popularly as Emperor Moths. Of these there are eight different species which occur in Canada: all belong to the family Saturniidae. The caterpillars of these moths, known as the giant silkworms, are among the largest of the leaf-eating insects which we have. The larvæ are, of course, extremely voracious and, during this stage in the life of these insects, devour many times their actual weight of food. None, however, are of much economic importance, but where several occur on a small tree their work soon denotes their presence, and, if it is desirable to destroy them, hand-picking is the simplest remedy. Although the caterpillars of these Emperor Moths are so voracious, the moths themselves are unable to feed on account of their mouth parts being aborted.

The Luna Moth, *Tropæa luna*, which is figured on the next page, has most appropriately been styled "fair empress of the night" and "queen of the night." It was first described by Linnæus, in *Systema Naturæ*, in the year 1758, so has long been known to naturalists. It is indeed one of the most beautiful of all insects. The four wings are of a delicate green colour, the two front ones being bordered along the upper edge with purple, or purplish-brown, which colour also extends across the thorax near the head. The head, rest of the thorax, and abdomen is white, or pale greenish-white. The eye-like spot towards the middle of each wing is transparent in the centre and bordered with lines of white, pale purple, yellow and black on one side, and dark purple (or red), yellow, blue and black on the other side. The eye-like spot on each of the front wings is joined by a