fringed with yellow, the tail is black with an oval, yellow spot; the body is also black marked with yellow. When its wings are expanded it measures about five inches, sometimes more.

This stately creature is very active when on the wing and difficult to capture, but when it has alighted and is busily engaged in sucking the nectar of flowers, if cautiously approached, it may be taken without much difficulty.

Last September, I was much gratified at receiving a number of the singular caterpillars of this beautiful butterfly from Mr. S. Eccles, of St. Thomas. They were found in his garden, feeding on *Dictamnus flaxinella*, a perrenial herb, which is a native of Southern Europe, but cultivated in this country in gardens, as an ornamental plant. The larva is a very strange looking creature. On the first four segments of the body there is a white lateral band beginning from the head, and between that and the corresponding one on the opposite side, there is a large brown patch, marked by large brownish black spots. Behind this, about the middle of the body there is a large white spot in the shape of a lozenge, which covers the back and a part of the sides, one of the angles of which reaches the first pair of fleshy pro-legs. In the middle of that band there are some brown spots. The hinder part of the body is covered by another large white patch marked anteriorly with some brown spots; the sides of the body, between the lozenge-shaped and the last white patch are of a uniform dark brown colour. The underside is also brown as well as the feet.

This curious mixture of white grey and brown colours is so arranged as to make the larvæ closely resemble the excrement of birds. This is especially so during the earlier stages of their growth; doubtless this resemblance protects them against their enemies, especially the birds. When touched they stretch forth a reddish brown fleshy fork from behind the head, which is also used as a defence against their enemies.

For a few days, while fresh food of *Dictamnus* was at hand, the larvæ did well and grew rapidly, but the supply failing they were transferred to a young orange tree, which was enclosed in a gauze bag to prevent their escape—when they lost their vigour and activity, and although they ate more or less of the foliage every day, they lost flesh and one after another died, until only three or four remained. These lingered for a time when two of them spun up and went into chrysalis, but the chrysalids were small and one of them deformed, and finally the remainder all died. Subsequently the chrysalids became stiff and hard, and on opening them they were were found dead and dry.

The chrysalis is brown, marked with blackish points.

The skill shown by this butterfly in selecting the plants and trees on which to deposit its eggs is very wonderful. The caterpillar, as far as is known feeds only on species belonging to the Rutacæ or Rue family, which comprises genera and species singularly unlike each other; yet this butterfly knows how to recognize and select them. *Dictamnus* belongs to this family, so also does the common garden rue *Ruta graveolens*. The other members found in this country are the Northern Prickly Ash *Zanthoxylum Americanum*, the Southern Prickly Ash, *Z. Carolinianum*; the hop tree *Ptelea trifoliata* and the genus *Citrus* which includes the sweet and bitter orange, the lemon, lime and citron. In the South, the larva, as already stated feeds on the various trees belonging to the latter family, in the West it feeds on the Prickly Ash, while in Kansas it is known to feed on the hop tree. Having been found on *Dictamnus* it becomes highly probable that it will feed also on Rue, although it has not yet been found on this plant.