

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

ADDITIONS TO THE ODONATA OF THE OTTAWA DISTRICT.—When, in 1908, Dr. E. M. Walker published his paper on the Odonata of the Ottawa district,\* he remarked that further investigation would no doubt add other species to the list he was publishing. Indeed, the material he had used for his work had not been the result of systematic collecting, but had been taken largely by entomologists when hunting for insects of other orders.

At Dr. F. Ris's request I paid special attention to the Odonata, and though my collecting was mostly done during holidays I obtained a fairly good number of species, namely 41, amongst which are 12 which are additions to the Ottawa fauna. All the captures were made in the immediate neighborhood of St. Alexander's College, Ironside, Que., which is less than five miles distance from Ottawa.

Another interesting result was the addition of a few records to the fauna of Quebec, namely: *Gomphus spicatus* Hag. and *Libellula luctuosa* Burm.—*Cordulegaster obliquus* Say, *Hagenius brevistylus* Selys and *Boyeria grafiana* Williams, are for the first time definitely recorded from that province, while *Ophiogomphus anomalus* Harv. has not yet been mentioned for Canada, though Dr. E. M. Walker has seen in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, specimens from Lake Nipigon, Ont.† The entire list being of more interest for Quebec, is to be published shortly in the *Naturaliste Canadien*. The additions to the Ottawa fauna are as follows:—

- 1—*Enallagma antennatum* Say.
- 2—*Enallagma carunculatum* Morse.
- 3—*Cocnagrion resolutum* Hagen.
- 4—*Cordulegaster maculatus* Selys.
- 5—*Cordulegaster obliquus* Say.
- 6—*Hagenius brevistylus* Selys.
- 7—*Ophiogomphus anomalus* Harvey.
- 8—*Gomphus spicatus* Hagen.
- 9—*Aeshna canadensis* Walker.
- 10—*Aeshna interrupta* Walker.
- 11—*Aeshna umbrosa* Walker.
- 12—*Tetragoneura cynosura simulans* Muttowski.

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ONE OF NATURE'S WONDERS.—One evening we were sitting on Bon-fire rock, and watching the children at play. All were happy with sail-boats except one little girl, who was watching something on the shore very intently. Jumping up suddenly she came running up to us, calling out in amaze-

ment: "Come everybody and see two sticks walking together!"

As we could not resist her eagerness we followed her back indulgently. Following the little pointing finger we too, saw, with no little surprise, two small twigs, evidently fastened together, slowly moving.

Then we turned to our naturalist.

Carefully he explained to both big folks and little folks, that the caddis-fly in its early stage had made itself cosy and secure in a little sack, partly under and partly between, those two little twigs, fastening all firmly together by a secretion stored within itself for that purpose. Then he suggested that the finder, Elsie, should put it in water in a glass jar and watch it closely for a few days to see what would happen. She did not have to watch long, for the next afternoon she called everybody again, exclaiming that something was certainly happening to her specimen. The whole household hurried to the scene. Out between the twigs was emerging a little form, all wrapped in a dainty casing. Then out of this came the adult caddis-fly, which after a few struggles and a few restings, fluttered around the room and then flew gayly out of the window.

M. E. C.

Bide-a-Wee Island,  
Upper Blue Sea Lake, Que.  
July 31st, 1918.

THE EFFECT OF GOPHER POISON ON GROUSE.—Too often tradition passes current as fact and "what everybody says" is many times accepted without examination or verification, especially when it agrees with conceptions of personal interest. An interesting example of the care that should be used in accepting or acting upon popular report or opinion is given in the report of the Game Branch in the *Public Service Bulletin*, Vol. VI, No. 12, July, 1918, pp. 208-9, published by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

In this report it appears that the marked scarcity of "Prairie Chicken" (Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Pedioecetes phasianellus*) throughout the Prairie Provinces was almost universally attributed by sportsmen and others to the extensive use of strychnine in gopher poisoning. On experimenting with live birds, however, it was discovered that they have such remarkable resistance to this poison that it can no longer be blamed for their destruction.

Two captive "Prairie Chicken" were used for this purpose. Upon the first day these were each fed, in four meals of from 5 to 350 grains each, a total of 1550 grains of wheat poisoned with the usual

\*Ott. Nat., Vol. XXII, pp. 16, 49.

†Dr. Walker has kindly permitted me to use this note here.