

of other species, her attractive power, as shown I think by the experiments quoted, affecting the males of her own species only. Therefore I cannot see how the scarcity of any species of *Atticii* would be the means of producing hybrids; surely the absence of the males of one species would not increase the attractive powers of the female to such an extent as to affect the males of another species; if so, why did not the female *promethea* exposed by Mr. Bethune attract some of the male *cecropias* that came so freely to their own female.

There is another point to be considered in this comparison of birds and moths. During the breeding season a pack of Grouse consists of one male and several females, therefore if half of the pack were killed by hunting, the male would in all probability be amongst them. But in the moths the sexes are, I believe, nearly equal, and even if a species was extensively damaged by parasites, we have no reason for thinking that both sexes would not be represented by the few that escaped the attacks of their enemies, in which case there would be no need of their recurring to another species.

Dr. Hagen says that in the year that *columbia* was taken in Maine, the *Atticii* were extensively attacked by parasites in that neighborhood. In this locality (Montreal) in 1874, the year that Mr. Pearson found *columbia*, the *Atticii* were remarkably free from parasites; I do not think there was more than one in eight affected. Mr. Pearson found five cocoons of *promethea* (it is always rare here), four of which produced the moth; the other was dead in the chrysalis, but had not been attacked by parasites. Mr. Pearson also found twelve cocoons of *cecropia* on one tree, all of which produced the moth, and from a large number of cocoons of *cecropia* and *polyphemus*, taken in various places around Montreal, the number affected by parasites was comparatively small.

I suppose the reason that *cecropia* and *promethea* are selected as the parents of *columbia* is that the dark color of the latter bears a slight resemblance to the smoky color of the male *promethea*, but how is it that there is no trace of the falcate primaries of that insect in either sex of *columbia*, and how is it that in *columbia* there is no trace of the very remarkable manner in which the cocoon of *promethea* is attached to its food plant?

Dr. Hagen mentions several instances of hybrids having occurred amongst the *Atticii* while in confinement. I do not think much importance should be attached to this circumstance, as the interbreeding of