

Earlier in the season there might be found upon these plants two other insects peculiar to *Asclepias*, viz., a longicorn beetle, *Tetraopes tetraopithalmus*, red with black spots, the larvæ of which feed in the roots or lower stems, and the larva of the big Milkweed butterfly, *Danaïs archippus*, a conspicuous caterpillar strikingly ornamented with narrow yellow, white and black bands.

Members sometimes enquire as to the time for collecting caterpillars, so it may be noted that just at this season the larvæ of many of our larger moths attain maturity, and thus very interesting species can be easily secured.

Among caterpillars which have been unusually abundant this summer may be mentioned that of *Leucardtia acraea*, the so-called Salt-marsh caterpillar, which, however, is not confined to the sea-coast, but has been more or less destructive all over the country.

This is also a good season to examine for galls the oaks, hickories, willows, golden-rods, *Lactuca*, *Nabalus*, sumac, asters, etc., etc.

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## ORNITHOLOGY.

Edited by A. G. Kingston.

### ROBINS AS DESTROYERS OF HAIRY CATERPILLARS AND WHITE GRUBS.

One of the large Woolly bear Caterpillars (*Leucardtia acraea*) has been unusually abundant at Ottawa this year, Mr. Fletcher reports having seen Robins on several occasions eating these caterpillars. They are not eaten at once; but are shaken and rubbed in the grass and on the ground for a minute or two when most of the long hairs are found to be removed. By running out suddenly the birds were on two or three occasions driven off and their victims examined. The same birds were also noticed doing good work on lawns by destroying the larvæ of the May-beetles the injurious White Grubs.

### THE CHIMNEY SWIFT

Our local colony of these singular birds, swollen by the large number of young hatched during the present season, appears to have its quarters at the Western Departmental Buildings too crowded for comfort. On the evening of 27th August a considerable flock was observed circling in their usual manner above the City Hall and finally descending into a small ventilating tower on the north side of that building. These