

fear that but a very slight case can be made out in his favor. Of fruit he is a thief of the worst kind, stealing early and late, from the time of strawberries until the last grapes are gathered ; not content to eat entirely the fruit he attacks, but biting a piece out here and there from the finest specimens, and thus destroying a far greater quantity than would suffice to fill him to his utmost capacity. At the time of writing, flocks of the most pertinacious specimens are destroying the best of my grapes, while alongside is a patch of cabbages almost eaten up with the larvæ of the cabbage butterfly—nice, fat, smooth grubs, easily swallowed, but no such thing will Mr. Robin look at as long as good fruit can be had. His tastes are so expensive that to gratify them is to deprive the fruit grower of a large portion of his profits, hence the sooner the robin ceases to be protected by legislation the better it will be for all lovers of fruit.

The insect world is composed of myriads of specimens which from their varied structure and habits admit of being classified into families, each distinct and usually easily recognizable to the practiced eye of the Entomologist. A large portion of this innumerable host is appointed to prey upon and devour the other portions, and thus it appears to me that apart from any consideration of insectivorous birds, that the insect world would and does to a large extent take care of itself, and when an injurious species increases beyond its normal limits, its natural insect enemies having an unusual amount of material to work on, soon become sufficiently numerous to reduce the number of the injurious insect to its normal proportions again. As an illustration take the now common cabbage butterfly, *Pieris rapæ*. This insect was in some way brought from Europe to Quebec a few years ago. From Quebec it has since spread over an immense area extending now from Alabama to the waters of Lake Superior, eastward to the Atlantic, and westward many hundreds of miles, and over all this district it has done immense damage to the cabbage crop. Throughout this area insectivorous birds of all sorts prevail ; the butterfly is conspicuous, not very strong in flight, and during the day almost constantly on the wing ; the larva feeds in exposed situations, is of that smooth character which birds are said to prefer, and although similar in color to its food plant, is not difficult to detect. Here, then, is an instance where a comparatively feeble insect, particularly vulnerable to attack, has rapidly spread over a large portion of this continent with little or no opposition from insectivorous birds. Indeed I have never yet found or known to be found a single example either of the butterfly or