

GENERAL EXCURSIONS.

The Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club held the first general excursion to Casselman on May 21st. The president, Mr. W. T. Macoun, was in charge, and leaders in various branches of the Club's work were present, but the heavy rains of the preceding days limited the attendance to a few members of the Club.

The collecting field at Casselman is a most varied one, and the different sections soon separated for the day's work. Dr. Ami took a party along the bank of the Nation River, and they were successful in unearthing numerous relics of the South Nation Indians, an Algonquin tribe whose name is borne by this tributary of the Ottawa river.

Dr. Fletcher, Messrs. Gibson and Young led the entomological section and secured many specimens of insects, among them 10 different species of butterflies. *Thecla niphon* was, perhaps, the rarest of these. This is a small brown butterfly the caterpillar of which feeds on the young shoots of pine trees. A specimen of the rare beetle *Hylecetus lugubris* was seen on the railway track and was caught but made its escape. Several specimens of *Sphaeridium scarabaeoides* were secured.

The ornithologists found that both locality and season combined to furnish ideal conditions. No less than forty-nine species of birds were observed by Rev. C. W. Eifrig. The Greater Yellow-legs and the Black-bellied Plover were both seen along the river. A Migrant Shrike's nest with five young and one egg was found. The nest was placed on one of the lower branches of a plum tree. A Bluebird's nest with 5 eggs and a nest of the Savanna Sparrow were also seen.

The botanical section found several species that are not of common occurrence near Ottawa. Four species of *Trillium* were collected, the rarest being *Trillium cernuum*. *Trillium grandiflorum* with exceptionally large flowers was common. In some of these the white petals from the base to the open measured $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Specimens in one clump were semi-double and had in some instances the sepals petaloid and more or less white. Some violets were in splendid condition. *Viola brauda* was remarkably fine and in such enormous abundance as to scent the