

and some of its members are very prettily marked. They offer a fine field for study of life habits as hardly anything is known in regard to them. The family Sphegidae contains those species which are at the height of fashion as regards slimness of waist. The small abdomen is attached to the thorax by a threadlike petiole consisting of one or two segments exceedingly attenuated, and frequently much longer than the abdomen itself. The black, or red and black, *Ammophilas* may be seen hawking up and down paths in fields, and collecting caterpillars for their burrows, which are constructed in dry light soil. The mud-daubers which build clay cells, often in groups, under stones or about buildings, provision them with spiders.

The foregoing scant remarks will give only a brief and imperfect idea of the diversity of habits to be looked for among the Sphegoidae, and of the correspondently great interest to be derived from a careful observation of our species, regarding so many of which nothing definite or authentic is recorded. Those of our members who, more fortunate than the writer, are able to spend the summer in the country, could derive a great deal of pleasure in considering the ways of these wasps, and would by carefully recorded observations much amplify our knowledge of their life histories. As a guide for such work, so suitable for ladies summing afield, there is a delightful book on the "Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps," by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Peckham, of Milwaukee. Acquaintances could readily be made among these lively and industrious insects, which would make the sweet summer hours still more enjoyable and the fields to yield new interests. The plates in the volume just mentioned give excellent figures of several of our common species, and many of our forms are portrayed in the beautiful plates of "The Insect Book," by Dr. Howard, the eminent United States Entomologist. This splendid book should be in every household, especially in every farm house or country cottage, a mine of information and delightful interest for every youth, who desires to know somewhat of the teeming life of the fields, the woods and the waters.