

In conclusion, your Council would express the hope that the members will not relax their efforts during the present season, and that the result of the summer's campaign will be even more favourable than that of last year.

The whole respectfully submitted.

GEO. J. BOWLES,
President.

GEO. H. BOWLES,
Secretary.

Montreal, 17th May, 1880.

The President then delivered his annual address, for which he received the thanks of the members present.

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN,—The past season has not been very eventful in Ontario in matters relating to insect life. No unusual armies of insect enemies have devastated our crops, and our farmers and fruit growers, in spite of the few perennial foes, which are always more or less troublesome, have realized a bountiful harvest.

Early in the season cut worms were very numerous in the neighbourhood of London, more abundant than I ever remember seeing them before. They destroyed innumerable cabbage plants and other herbaceous plants and flowers; among the latter, pansies seemed to possess great attraction for them. I saw many fine plants of this flower, of the previous year's growth, eaten close to the ground, both leaves and stalks, and from about the roots of a single plant found in several instances from thirty to fifty of the nearly full-grown larvæ. Fortunately their period of activity does not last long, and before the end of June most of them were quietly sleeping in the chrysalis state.

The question of insectivorous birds, and their influence on the insect world about us, is attracting much attention, and the more the subject is discussed the more evident it becomes that very little indeed is *known* in reference to it; that our ideas as to what should guide us are largely inherited, or otherwise based on sentiment, rather than resting upon well ascertained facts. I am well aware that to plead in favour of the birds is a popular course to follow; but the true student of nature is ever seeking after truth, and whether the facts he discovers are in accord with long cherished opinions and popular fancies, or are directly opposed to them, are questions of little moment. The facts, whatever they may be, are what we want.

Insectivorous birds may be conveniently divided into three classes: First, those which take their food entirely on the wing; second, those which feed partly on the wing and partly from trees and shrubs, and on the ground; and third, those which take no food on the wing, but feed entirely either on the ground or from trees or shrubs. In the first class, besides some rare birds which we do not need to mention here, the following are found common in most parts of our Province: the swallows, *Hirundinidæ*; kingbird, *Tyrannus Carolinensis*; pewee, *Sayornis fuscus*, and nighthawk, *Chordeiles popetue*. The food of these birds consists chiefly of flies, a large proportion of which cannot be said to be either noxious or beneficial; many of them in the earlier stages of their existence live in the water, where they devour decaying vegetation, or feast on the lower and simpler forms of animal and vegetable life. The larvæ of many others are scavengers, devouring decaying or putrescent animal and vegetable matter, and hence well deserve to be classed with beneficial insects. In the same class of friendly species will rank a considerable number of others which are parasitic on the bodies of caterpillars, also the rapacious species which sustain themselves by devouring the weaker and less vigorous of their race. A few rare exceptions, of which the wheat midge and Hessian fly may be noted as examples, are very injurious to field crops, while the mosquito and black fly are universally branded as enemies to the human race. These birds also devour a few butterflies and moths, but