

Locusts are, as a rule, kept within due limits by their many enemies, but occasionally they appear in large numbers and increase so much as to cause locust plagues or "grasshopper years." This is generally in dry summers, when they get the conditions which are most advantageous for their development, but which are adverse to the free growth of vegetation. In such years it is necessary to have recourse to artificial means to protect crops. The most successful of these have been the plowing under deeply of the eggs, which have been known to have been deposited in certain localities, before they have time to hatch, and the use of the tar-pan or "hopper-dozer," by means of which the insects are caught in large numbers and destroyed before they have developed their wings. These tar-pans are large, shallow pans, made of sheet iron after various patterns, but, as a rule, about twelve feet long by three wide, with the edge turned up slightly in front and the back about eighteen inches high. In the bottom of these pans a small quantity of tar or coal oil is placed and they are then drawn over the fields by horses. The grasshoppers spring in the air when the pan is drawn towards them and fall inside the pan, where they come in contact with the tar or oil, and even if they hop out again they are sure to die. In this way enormous quantities are destroyed every year in the Western States.

A vote of thanks to Mr. FLETCHER, for his valuable and highly interesting address, was moved by Rev. T. W. FYLES, who remarked, in doing so, upon the occurrence at Quebec of both the species, *Orgyia leucostigma* and *nova*. Dr. BETHUNE cordially seconded the motion and expressed the great pleasure that all present had experienced in listening to the address. In the course of his remarks he referred to the unusual abundance this year of the Tomato-worm, the larvæ of *Sphinx quinquemaculata*, and of several species of grasshoppers and to the entire absence in his garden of the Pear-tree slug, which had been very abundant and injurious for several years previously. He stated that a friend, resident in Toronto, was of opinion that the number of house flies had been very greatly diminished by the English sparrow, which devoured the larvæ, and enquired whether this observation was correct. He spoke also of the publication of a bibliographical catalogue of the Noctuidæ of North America, by Prof. J. B. SMITH, as one of the notable events of the year.

Mr. DENTON, in putting the motion to the meeting, spoke of the value of the remedies for the Horn-fly, and gave instances of herds of cattle being kept in splendid condition by being protected from the attack of this annoying insect.

The reports of the different sections for the past year were next read by their respective secretaries.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO FOR 1892-3.

This section has held about half a dozen meetings during the year, most of which have been attended by almost every member. The approach of the collecting season, however, led to such a scant attendance that the meetings were dropped.

A ledger was opened to record the distribution, abundance, nesting habits, etc., of the birds of Middlesex and surrounding counties, on which several evenings' work was done before the cessation of meetings, and it is the intention of members to push it to completion, if possible, during the coming season.

Each member of the section has been devoting himself to the special study of one bird, and the hawk family has thus been divided between the members for report this present fall. Good results are looked for from this concentration of work.

No very rare birds were observed during the season, but the Olive-sided Flycatcher and the Fox-colored Sparrow were observed to justify the opinion of their increased local abundance, while the Tennessee warbler was unusually common for a few days in spring, and was singing freely, a habit which was not previously noted in our locality. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. E. SAUNDERS, Chairman.

W. J. STEVENSON, Secretary.