

# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

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WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

## PARASITES ON TELEA POLYPHEMUS.

In one of the popular papers on Entomology by my esteemed friend Mr. W. Saunders of London, Ontario,\* he says:—"This insect (*T. polyphemus*) is subject to the attack of many foes, particularly while in the larval state. A large number fall a prey to insectivorous birds, and they also have insect enemies. A large ichneumonidly *Ophion macrurum*, is a special and dangerous foe. This active creature may often be seen in summer on the wing, searching among the leaves of shrubs and trees for her prey. When found, she watches her opportunity, and places quickly upon the skin of her victim, a small oval white egg, securely fastened by a small quantity of glutinous substance attached to it. This is repeated until eight or ten eggs are placed, which in a few days hatch, when the tiny worms pierce through the skin of the caterpillar and begin to feed on the fatty portions within. The *polyphemus* caterpillar continues to feed and grow, and usually lives long enough to make its cocoon, when consumed by the parasites, it dies; in the meantime the ichneumon, having completed their growth, change to chrysalides within the cocoon, and the following summer, in place of the handsome moth, there issues a crop of ichneumon flies." The italics are mine. The insect above described and illustrated (fig. 11, Rep. 1882) by Mr. Saunders, is not correct. The matter refers to a much smaller one belonging to another genus (*Cryptus nuncius*, Sny.) the most common and destructive parasite on *T. polyphemus*. *Ophion macrurum* deposits but one egg on a caterpillar, and as soon as the parasite devours it, the *Ophion* spins a large oblong dark cocoon within that formed by the caterpillar of *polyphemus*. Cocoons of this moth which I have collected last season, contained about thirty specimens of *Cryptus nuncius* of both sexes, and I also found an undetermined species of *Hemiteles* inclosed in the same cocoon; the latter may be a parasite on *Cryptus*. The species of *Ophion* occurring in Canada, are yet to be studied.—C.

\* Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario for the year 1882, page 17.

## AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

We have received the following circular, signed by J. A. Allen, Editor of the *Nuttall Bulletin*; Elliott Coues, Assoc-Editor of the *Nuttall Bulletin* and William Brewster, President of the Nuttall Club, calling "a Convention of American Ornithologists, to be held in New York City, beginning on September 26th, 1883, for the purpose of founding an AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, upon a basis similar to that of the 'British Ornithologists' Union.'

"The object of the Union will be the promotion of social and scientific intercourse between American Ornithologists, and their co-operation in whatever may tend to the advancement of Ornithology in North America. A special object, which it is expected will at once engage the attention of the Union, will be the revision of the current lists of North American Birds, to the end of adopting a uniform system of classification and nomenclature, based on the views of a majority of the Union, and carrying the authority of the Union. Other important matters will be doubtless presented for consideration at the first meeting.

"It is proposed to hold meetings at least once annually, at such times and places as may be hereafter determined, for the reading of papers, the discussion of such matters as may be brought before the Union, and the transaction of the usual business of a scientific society.

"Those who attend the first meeting will be considered *ipso facto* Founders of the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. Active and Corresponding Members may be elected in due course after organization of the Union, under such rules as may be established for increase of membership. Details of organization will be considered at the first meeting."

Canadian Ornithologists who propose to attend the first meeting, please so signify to any one of the above gentlemen.

It gives us pleasure to record the fact that our ornithological neighbours of Cambridge and Washington have decided to form a Union similar to that which exists in Great Britain. Many important matters connected with