

common name by which it will be currently designated in this country, instead of the White Speck, the name given it in England.

About a dozen New York species of this genus, *Leucania*, are known to me. They are those white and pale yellow moths, or millers which are so common in our meadows and other grass lands, and which flit aside in such numbers when the scythe of the mower sweeps their covers from them. And the "black worm," which in this section of our Union sometimes shows the same gregarious and migratory habits as the Army worm of the Western and Southern States, I now infer to be the larva of some one of these moths.

I have scarcely sufficient space remaining to give in this article such a full and particular description of this moth as ought to accompany this announcement of its name, and will enable every one to distinguish it with certainty from other moths which resemble it.

It is very plain and unadorned in its appearance. The eye, on first glancing at it, only recognizes it as an ordinary looking moth of a tarnished yellowish drab color, inclining to russet, with a small white dot near the centre of its fore wings, and a dusky oblique streak at their tips. On coming to look at it more particularly, we find it to be rather less than an inch long to the end of its closed wings, or if these are extended it is about an inch and three quarters in width, different specimens varying somewhat in their size. Its fore wings are sprinkled with blackish atoms, and a short distance forward of their hind edge, they are crossed by a row of black dots, one on each of the veins. Outside of the middle of the wings, this row of dots suddenly curves forward, and from this curve a dusky streak runs to the tip of the wing, the ground color being more pale and clearer yellow outside of this streak. Though the moths of some other genera usually have a similar streak, this is the only species of this genus in which this mark occurs, and hence M. Garnee names this species *extranea*, i. e., extraneous, foreign, different, as though it did not belong here. And Mr. Stephens doubts whether it correctly pertains to this genus. But a character that will appear to common persons as more conspicuous and important, is that from which Mr. Haworth names this species. Nearly in the centre of the wing is a milk-white dot, placed upon the mid vein. This dot is surrounded more or less by a dusky cloud, and this duskieness is frequently extended forward upon the mid-vein to its base, forming a faint darker streak along the middle of the wing. Contiguous to this dot on its outer side may be discerned a roundish spot of a slightly paler yellow color than the ground, and a very short distance forward of this is a similar spot, but smaller, both these spots often showing a more tarnished centre. On the hind part of the wing the veins are marked by slender whitish lines, and between their tips on the hind edge of the wing is a row of minute black dots.

The hind wings are smoky brown, with a purplish gloss, and are nearly transparent, with the veins blackish. The fringe of both pairs of wings is pale yellowish, with a dusky band on the middle.

On the under side the wings are much more glossy and paler, opalescent whitish inwardly, and smoky gray toward their outer and hind sides, where they are also freckled with blackish atoms. The smoky color on the hind wings has, on its anterior edge, a row of short, blackish lines placed on each of the veins, and in line with them on the fore wings is a faint dusky band, becoming more distinct towards its outer end, and sometimes only represented by a dusky dot on the outer margin forward of the tip. The veins are whitish, and also the hind edge, on which is a row of black dots placed between the tips of the veins. The hind wings have also a blackish crescent shaped spot a little forward of their centre.

The abdomen or hind body is smoky gray above and on its under side ash grey, freckled with black scales, and usually showing a row of black dots along each side.

Though these moths are subject to some variety, whoever has one of them in his hands will find it to coincide so exactly with most of the particulars stated in the above description, that he will be fully assured it is this insect.

ASA FITCH.

Salem, N. Y., July, 1861.

P.S. July 17th.—A fine specimen of this moth reaches me to-day from Mr. Emery, editor of the *Prairie Farmer*. It is a male, and indicates the sex to be smaller, measuring but little over an inch and a half across its spread wings. It is also of a darker or more smoky gray color, but does not appear to differ otherwise from the description above given.

A.P.

#### ANOTHER WHEAT PEST.

(From the *Kingston Whig*.)

"He doth take my life  
Who takes the means to support my life."

Within the past few days several farmers in the neighborhood of Kingston have transmitted to the Botanical Society of Canada ears of wheat and other grains infested with an insect, which, although individually minute, presents a formidable appearance on account of the vastness of numbers. In some cases the little parasite completely covers the ears of grain; in fact, wheat is "dark with it." The insect in question is a species of *Aphis*, or plant-louse. It is probable that it now makes its appearance in Canada for the first time; but this season its usual abundance has served to attract the attention of farmers. It appears from the newspapers, that the same, or a similar insect is at present infesting the wheat and other grain crops in the United States.

The *Aphides* are very numerous, and on domestic plants, such as roses and geraniums, suffer severely from their attacks; their usual green colour has obtained for them the name of green fly. Naturalists at once time thought every plant had its peculiar attendant *Aphis*, it is now known that the same species, in various cases, attacks various plants. They do not gnaw leaves of the plant like caterpillars, but sit