

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUTTERFLIES ON MARTHAS VINEYARD.

DEAR SIR,—

I have spent the last ten days on this island, at Oak Bluffs, and made several excursions into the back country for a distance of about three miles. I find *C. phleas* the commonest butterfly, seen everywhere, in the town, fields and on the beach. Next to that *Argynnis idalia*, which abounds in old fields, and is just now fresh from chrysalis. Of *P. tharos* I have taken two fresh males, var. *marcia*. *Satyrus alope* male is making its appearance and the species may become quite common. I am not sure that some examples of *nephele* have not been seen also. Another *Satyrus* I saw in the oak woods, but could not determine whether it was *eurytis* or *canthus*. *Philodice* seems rare, and I have seen one example of *antiopa* and one of *atalanta*. No *Hesperians* at all have been seen, and no other butterfly than I have above mentioned. On a ride to Boston I saw a *Terias nicippe* flying near Brockton Station.

W. H. EDWARDS.

July 29th, 1877.

DEAR SIR,—

Perhaps some of the readers of your valuable paper might be interested in knowing of the capture at this place of another superb *Catocala marmorata* Ed., which I took July 2nd. It was sitting on the trunk of a Silver Poplar tree, within a few yards of where I captured one on July 10th, last season. Prof. Wetherby and myself have each taken a single specimen of *Catocala agrippina* Strecker, whose types were from Texas, I believe.

CHARLES DURY.

Avondale, Ham. Co., Ohio, Aug. 15th, 1877.

DEAR SIR,—

On p. 120, vol. ix., CAN. ENT., is published a note by Mr. Robert Bunker, referring to the "effect of hot weather upon certain Sphinges," particularly *P. satellitia*.

I have regularly for several years past taken mature larvæ of *P. achemon* previous to July 10th, the transformation of which, so far as I know, was

completed by Sept. 25th of the same year. This year, although everything is about two weeks behind its usual time, I received two mature larvæ July 5th, both of which had unfortunately been killed; with them came a moth taken the same day, whose wings had not expanded when discovered.

The time from deposit of egg to pupation is about eight weeks, sometimes a day or two more, but usually three or four days less, hence these ova must have been deposited before May 10th, or before even *Colias philodice* had appeared. As I know of no Sphinges emerging here before the middle of June, the contraction of the time of growth would be very remarkable in this case, even had the weather been hot, which it has not.

I have taken this moth (*P. achemon*) in May, flying about the early spring flowers in company with *Deilephila lineata*, both very ragged and much faded; this would seem to suggest that *P. achemon* (and perhaps other Sphinges) exists as it were in duplicate, the September examples hibernating in the perfect state and depositing ova in the spring. A state of affairs possibly instituted by a long, dry and warm season in summer and autumn, and continuing until a severe winter, destroys the hibernating examples, which must also suffer greatly from mice, and their ova and larvæ from late frosts, thus accounting for their rarity.

This is, I admit, a very weakly supported hypothesis, resting entirely upon circumstantial evidence, as early examples of strong moths like Sphinges *might* travel many miles before a strong south wind; if, however, some collector who has females emerge in September, would dissect them and ascertain how far the ova are developed, the result would probably offer a satisfactory solution as to the probability of occasional or regular hibernations.

It may be a matter of interest that *Pieris rapæ* has reached this point in its westward journey. I took one ♂ example at Maplewood, immediately west of this city, Sept. 8th; seemed to be more abundant than *P. protodice*, which was flying in the same locality.

C. E. WORTHINGTON, Chicago.

DRYOCAMPA RUBICUNDA (FABR.)

DEAR SIR,—

Mr. Linter, in his "Entomological Contributions," No. 3, has a very elaborate description of this larva, noting, indeed, very minute char-

acters and some which are by no means constant, such as the number of spinules on different portions of the body. There are some few words to which exception may be taken; for instance, the color is not always "apple green," being not unfrequently greenish-white, and in such case the lateral stripes are nearly black.

But, speaking generally, the description is very accurate; one important omission has, however, occurred, and it is to this omission I wish to draw attention. I have, from time to time, reared hundreds of these larvæ, and I never saw one that had not a *conspicuous red patch*, with white granulations, on the stigmatal portions of segments 11 and 12. That so careful an observer as Mr. Lintner should have overlooked this mark, had it been present in the specimens he examined, seems improbable; and now the question arises—Has not Mr. Lintner described some species not *rubicunda*?

I urged this consideration on Mr. Lintner some two years since, and sent him a small batch of larvæ for his examination. I think he told me that they all died, and, so far as I know, he has taken no further notice of the matter.

I have an indistinct recollection that some one has recently described a new species of *Dryocampa* allied to *rubicunda*, but do not feel quite sure; but, any way, the questions are important—Did Mr. Lintner describe *D. rubicunda* larva inaccurately? or, Did he describe the larva of a new species? or, Do the larvæ of *rubicunda* vary to the extent of sometimes losing the red patch?

W. V. ANDREWS, Brooklyn, N. Y.

FOOD PLANTS OF SATURNIA IO.

DEAR SIR,—

The larvæ of this species are unusually abundant here this season, and I have taken them feeding on White Birch, Oak, Corn, Willow, Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*), Currant, Apple, Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), Clover, Bush Clover (*Lespedeza*), Snow Berry (*Symphoricarpos*), and the Ash.

L. W. GOODELL.

Amherst, Mass., Sept. 1st, 1877.