

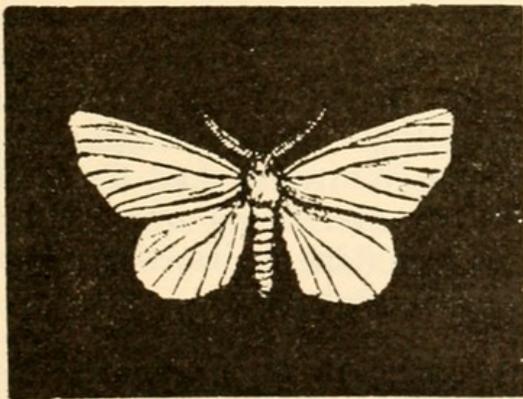
together, but in the course of the careful search to which we subjected this old grass, Mr. Brown found a nest of the Wren which I think is worthy of description. When one locates a pair of Short-bills he immediately begins to find nests in the tall waving grasses, covered on the outside with green grass. These nests are, in my experience, invariably empty, but now it appears that nearby there is probably a different nest with eggs. The one found by Mr. Brown was set low down so that it was very inconspicuous and instead of being built of green grasses, as are the false nests, it was constructed of last year's growth in the same manner as that of the Long-bill.

In this nest were the remains of a set of five eggs, two badly broken and three which made moderately good cabinet specimens. The nest had been deserted for probably a week or two.

#### A REMARKABLE VISITATION OF THE SNOW-WHITE EUGONIA, *ENNOMOS SUBSIGNARIUS*, HBN.

BY ARTHUR GIBSON, CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

On the evening of July 23rd, last, Ottawa was visited by enormous numbers of the Snow-white Eugonia, the caterpillars of which are known as the Elm Span worm. Thousands of the moths appeared in all parts of the city, being attracted to the arc lights. Around many of these electric lights hundreds of specimens were flying and resting on any available place. Some of the electric light poles were literally covered with them, and from a short distance the poles looked as if they had been whitewashed or given a coat of white paint. On the main streets, such as Sparks and Bank, the moths were much noticed and caused considerable comment. Stores which had their doors opened were invaded by the insects, much to the annoyance and discomfort of the people inside. The many brilliant lights at Britannia also attracted great numbers of the moths.



SNOW-WHITE EUGONIA.

The Snow-white Eugonia, although a common insect and widespread in distribution, has not, as far as we know, ever been noticed in such numbers, in Canada, as it was on the above evening. The following evening, July 24th, a few specimens were seen fluttering about, such as might be noticed during any season when the insect is in its normal numbers.

The figure herewith gives a good idea of the size and appearance of the moth. As its name implies, it is pure white, expanding about an inch and a half when the wings are spread.

In the United States, the caterpillar of this moth has, on many occasions, appeared in very destructive numbers, and, on account of its injuries to the elm and being one of the measuring-worms, it has been called the Elm Span-worm. Its injuries to shade trees, particularly elm and basswood, in some of the larger cities, have been specially reported upon by several observers. It is also recorded as an apple tree pest.

The female moth, soon after emerging from the pupa, lays a large number of eggs, usually on the underside of the branches of the trees. The eggs remain on the limbs until the following spring, only hatching, it is stated, when the leaves unfold, the young caterpillars feeding on the new and tender foliage. In from five to six weeks from hatching the caterpillar has reached its full growth, and in colour resembles the twigs of the tree on which it has been feeding, the body being brownish; the large head and terminal segment of the body are bright red. When mature the larva changes to the chrysalis state, and in about 10 days the moth emerges.

The sudden great abundance of this insect on the above evening was certainly remarkable and very extraordinary. Not a single specimen of the larva was seen in the Ottawa district during June or July by any of the officers of the Division of Entomology, or by other local entomologists, and it would be most interesting to know where all the moths came from.

The sparrows of the city had a great feast early the following day. Along the main streets, the wings of the moths were very noticeable, the bodies having been eaten.

In an article on the White-marked Tussock Moth, Dr. E. P. Felt, in his "Insects Affecting Park and Woodland Trees," says: "Dr. J. L. Le Conte has placed on record an interesting instance of the effect this bird may have on our local fauna. He states that the English sparrow was imported for the purpose of keeping in check the Snow-white Linden Moth, *Ennomos subsignarius*, Hbn., and that in Philadelphia, after the sparrows had destroyed the *Ennomos* larvæ, the White-marked Tussock Moth caterpillars found abundant food, and being unmolested by the sparrow, on account of their irritating hairs, they soon became even worse pests than the other species."

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Since the above article was prepared, similar visitations, in New York State, of apparently the same moth, have been reported in the daily press and certain agricultural papers.—ED.



Gibson, Arthur. 1908. "A remarkable visitation of the Snow-white Eugonia, Ennomos subsignarius, HBN." *The Ottawa naturalist* 22(6), 117–118.

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