

OCCURRENCE OF THE COTTON MOTH IN ONTARIO IN 1912.

BY ARTHUR GIBSON.

The first record I have of the occurrence of the Cotton Moth (*Alabama argillacea* Hubn.) in Canada, in 1912, is its abundance at Woodstock, Ont., where the moths appeared on the evening of October 9th, or morning of the 10th. Mr. James Dunlop, who reported the flight, stated that he first saw them on an electric light pole near the Canadian Pacific Railway Station, soon after 8 a.m. Many specimens were on the pole and on the ground nearby. Visits were then made to other electric light poles in the vicinity. An immense number of the moths were seen on and near the second pole. "The pole was on one side of the sidewalk and on the other side under some trees among the grass, the moths were covering everything. They could have been literally shovelled up. There was a large flock of hens that had also discovered them, but they did not seem to make the least impression in their numbers. Next morning very few were to be seen, just an odd one here and there."

In the Canadian Entomologist, April, 1913, a short note was published, chiefly to accompany an illustration made from a photograph of a flight taken at London, Ont., by Mr. J. F. Calvert. With the photograph, Mr. Calvert sent the following note: "Late Thursday night, or early Friday morning (October 10th-11th), there appeared in London, great numbers of the Cotton Moth. They were most noticeable around the Canadian Pacific Railway Station, the Grand Trunk Railway Station, the Grand Trunk Railway Round House, and at a few other points where powerful arc-lights were located. In some places there were heaps several inches deep under these lights. By the following Sunday (October 13th) very few were to be seen."

At Dunnville, Ont., a flight was observed in the morning of October 11th. Mr. J. C. Payne, who reported the occurrence, stated that the moths "covered, thickly, the windows and store fronts, and lay on the ground like autumn leaves. There was a rain storm during the night (10th-11th), and the moths were here in the morning, after the rain."

On the evening of October 12th, I saw numbers of the moths in New York City, particularly in store windows and in restaurants.

At Ottawa few specimens were seen, and only during one evening, viz., October 15th, when seven were observed.



Gibson, Arthur. 1913. "Occurrence of the Cotton Moth in Ontario in 1912." *The Ottawa naturalist* 27(5-6), 71-71.

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