

member, Prof. John Macoun, and named after him by Mr. Edwards. The first specimens were caught at Nepigon on 28th June, 1884. It is a rare and short-lived insect and few specimens are known in collections. The only other known locality where specimens have been taken is Morley, at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, and here again strangely enough Prof. Macoun was the lucky captor. He took but 3 specimens, 2 males and a female, and no other collector has since found it there.

The number of collectors who have been to Nepigon to get *Chionobas Macounii* have given it a local celebrity, and the possibility of an entomologist being a rational and sane being is there allowed. The butterfly is there known as the "One-eyed Butterfly" from the fact that when at rest one of the large ocelli or eye-like spots beneath the upper wings is very conspicuous. This name, however, has given rise to most remarkable tales amongst the residents, and Indians. Most of these take the shape of descriptions of a wonderful insect with one large eye in front of its head. As few collectors, however, have obtained the butterfly, it is locally reported to be of fabulous value, "\$100 a specimen," being a convenient sum to mention, that is the usual figure quoted as its value. Guided by the local descriptions of the "One-eyed Butterfly," I fear that would-be speculators would be a long time making their fortunes.

The letterpress of this part of Mr. Edward's work is very full and interesting, and on the whole it will probably be considered one of the best that has appeared.—J. F.

Catalogue of the Lepidopterous Super-family Noctuidæ found in Boreal America. John B. Smith, D. Sc., pp. 224, 8 vo., Washington, 1893. (Bulletin 44 U. S. National Museum.)

Under the above modest title a most valuable work has lately been issued. It is not simply a list of species, but a complete bibliographical and synonymical catalogue, prepared by Dr. Smith with great labour during many years of special study.

A full preface explains the origin and purpose of the work, as well as some of the difficulties which it was necessary to overcome in its execution. There is a list of the authors and works cited, and an excellent index.

The author, date and original place of publication are given for every genus and species. Great care has been taken by the writer to examine, where possible, the types, and indication is given where these may be found. Published references are cited separately under the name of the species and the synonyms. Under the head of Habitat, Dr. Smith gives the distribution as far as known to him. Most references, however, to the 3,456,542 square miles of territory which are officially recognized as the Dominion of Canada (exclusive of Labrador and Newfoundland) are covered by the one word "Canada." This shows that few of our Canadian collectors have availed themselves of the generous offer made by Dr. Smith as advertised in all the Entomological Magazines, namely, that "he will name and return all material of this family sent to him, for the privilege of retaining such specimens as may be needed for description or for completing the collection of the United States National Museum."

As the author of the Catalogue has in preparation a Monograph of the whole of this family of moths, it is to be hoped that Canadian Entomologists will do all they can to assist him by sending him liberal supplies of material. The tendency of some to lock up in private collections rare and interesting specimens is much to be regretted. It is far better to send them to a specialist for study and subsequent deposition in a public museum where they will be not only of scientific value, but also available for study by others, and will have much greater chance of being preserved. The personal possession of rare or even unique specimens is after all a very small pleasure compared with that of knowing that they are in a place where they can be of use to many, and where the best care will be taken of them.

The large number of species included in the Noctuidæ, the close similarity between many of these, and on the other hand the wide variations which sometimes occur in the different specimens even of the same brood, make the study of this family very difficult. For this reason Dr. Smith's Catalogue will be gladly welcomed by Lepidopterists. It is a wonderful book and throws a flood of light on what was a hopeless chaos of impenetrable disorder.—J. F.



Fletcher, James. 1893. "Catalogue of the Lepidopterous Super-family Noctuidae found in Boreal America, by John B. Smith [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 7(9), 148–149.

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