

—Mr. Benton exhibited a bee impaled on a thorn, and discussed once more the question as to whether such impalements may be brought about by any other cause than the shrikes. In his opinion certain bees are thus impaled by being driven against thorns by the force of the wind. He showed that in a locality near his house (Berwyn, Md.), the shrikes do not occur; that the bees are all impaled upon one side of a locust tree, and that this side of the tree is in the direction of the strong north winds. The subject of the impalement of insects was discussed at length. Mr. Johnson spoke of the habits of the southern shrike which he had studied most carefully in Maryland, and upon which subject he proposes to present a lengthy paper at a near meeting of the Society. In his opinion insects found impaled are nearly always the result of the work of this bird. Apropos to the reason for the habit of the shrike in impaling insects and other animals, Dr. Gill said that he considered it a remnant of a providential instinct like the burying of bones by dogs, and like the storing of unnecessary honey by bees in the tropics. Mr. Ashmead corroborated Mr. Johnson's observations on the shrikes from his own experience in Florida. Mr. Johnson said that in his experience insects impaled by shrikes were very firmly fixed, the thorn extending clear through the body, whereas the specimen exhibited by Mr. Benton was but slightly pierced by the thorn, this fact lending color to Mr. Benton's theory that the insects had been blown against the thorn. Mr. Patten said that the impaling habit of the shrike was supposed to be due to the fact that the feet of this bird are weak, and that its food was impaled in order that it might be held firmly while the bird was eating it or tearing it to pieces. The subject was further discussed by Messrs. Howard, Marlatt, and Pratt.

—Mr. Howard presented the following note :

BUTTERFLIES ATTRACTED TO LIGHT AT NIGHT.

By L. O. HOWARD.

At 9 o'clock on the evening of June 6, 1893, in West Washington, D. C., the writer caught a fresh male specimen of *Eudamus tityrus* which had flown into the lighted room and established itself on a white curtain. Upon investigation he found that the observation was novel for this species, and published a

short note about it on page 355 of Volume V, *Insect Life*. There seems to be but one record of a similar attraction of a butterfly at night to an ordinary light. This is the instance mentioned by Miss Murtfeldt, in *Psyche*, Volume IV, page 206, in which she states that after 10 o'clock on the evening of August 20, 1882, a perfect specimen of *Apatura lycaon* flew in at the window of her sitting room and was captured with a butterfly net. Another example of the same species was taken earlier in the evening, but after the lamps were lighted. Exceptionally bright lights have, however, more often been known to attract butterflies. Mr. S. H. Scudder, in *Psyche*, Volume I, page 28, records the occurrence of *Grapta j-album* in numbers at the lantern of the flash-light on the island of Nantucket. At the meeting of the Brooklyn Entomological Society of October 6, 1885, Mr. Henry Edwards stated that he had been informed by Dr. C. Hart Merriam that the light-house keeper on Lake Ontario had been greatly annoyed by the large swarms of *Anosia plexippus* which flew against the light and obscured it (*Entomologica Americana*, Volume I, page 160). At the same meeting Mr. Edwards called attention to the fact that the electric light, since its introduction, had been observed to attract butterflies occasionally. He had observed *Papilio troilus*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *V. cardui*, *V. huntera*, *V. antiopa*, *Anosia plexippus*, and *Cyaniris pseudargiolus*. The principal object of this compilation of instances is the recording of the fact that at midnight, May 25-26, 1898, a fresh specimen of *Pholisora catullus* was caught by me flying about the gas jet in my house in West Washington, D. C. Speaking of the instance the next day to Dr. W. J. Holland, he informed me that while Satyridæ and Hesperidiidæ in the tropics fly in dark woods, and are occasionally seen at twilight, such instances as that recorded above are very rare. Of our North American species he considers *Eudamus tityrus* to be the latest flyer. Nearly all of our northeastern butterflies, as pointed out by Scudder, however, are found abroad before 7 or 8 in the morning of a summer's day, and long before nightfall, with closed wings and antennæ snugly packed between, they are quietly resting beneath some leaf or clinging to some grass blade. The observation on *P. catullus* is entirely new, and is to be explained like the previous one on *E. tityrus* and Miss Murtfeldt's observation as well, by the fact that the butterflies had gone to sleep near the window and were rudely disturbed by some nocturnal bird or animal.

The subject was discussed by Messrs. Ashmead, Marlatt, Johnson, and Pratt, all of whom had collected extensively at