

Vespa (Vespula) both black and yellow wasps, were so abundant in 1943 in many parts of the Dry Belt that they proved a plague of first magnitude, especially to fruit pickers. In 1944 queens and dwarf workers appeared in spring and then disappeared. (See p. 4 of the previous volume of this journal.) In 1945, up to mid-July, only 9 specimens of *Vespa* by careful count have been seen by two of us who are collecting them especially. This is the only instance of sudden rise and disappearance of insects where I dare to offer an explan-

ation satisfactory to me. The year 1944 was very dry, and aphids, normally so widespread and abundant, were conspicuously absent. Now wasps feed their young on chewed-up animal food, largely insects, but the adults can consume only liquid food of which honey-dew is the main item especially of the white-faced wasp *Vespula maculata* (Linn.) I suggest that the wasp plague of 1943 died out in 1944 through failure of aphids and the consequent honey-dew crop.

THE CAPTURE OF CALENDRA AEQUALIS FORM UNIVITTATA ON THE RUSH SCIRPUS ROBUSTUS (Coleoptera, Curculionidae).—On the Heron sheep ranges of the old Bulman lease north of Kamloops, at an altitude of about 1800 feet, lies an alkaline pond of some ten acres in extent. This contains from one to two feet of water each spring, but dries up in summer leaving an expanse of white alkali, deeply cracked and fissured. The pond is almost completely encircled with a belt of the rush *Scirpus robustus* Pursh, which is increasing each year forming in parts, a dense mat of roots sending up stems almost two feet in height.

Sweeping a net over the thickest part of these rushes in the third week in July, 1943, I got a specimen of the largest snout beetle I have so far collected in the Province, so I immediately beat over the area again but obtained only one more; however, on the thinner patches of rush that fringe the pond, the beetles were fairly common and I took thirty in all, roughly in the proportion of two females to one male. Both sexes vary in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length.

The beetles were feeding on the upper part of the rush stems and on the leaves, gouging out holes of considerable size. None were found mating, no eggs or egg punctures could be located, and slitting a number of stems showed no tunnels where grubs might have developed. The larvae probably live inside the root-stocks; if so, they must endure submergence in spring when the lake bed is flooded.

The adults have long and very sharp tarsal claws with which they cling so tenaciously to the smooth, polished surfaces of the rush stems that it was found necessary to grab them quickly and pull, all in one movement; if the pull was slow they tightened their grasp so effectively that they could be removed only when all tarsi broke off. If dropped, they feign death and then either dive down a crack in the mud or quickly climb another rush stem.

In a week's time they had practically disappeared, only two being found over the whole area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. I am greatly indebted to Professor John Davidson of our University for naming the rush and to Mr. H. B. Leech for identifying the beetles for me.—George J. Spencer, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

CALOSOMA LUGUBRE IN QUEBEC (Coleoptera, Carabidae).—*Calosoma lugubre* LeConte is a large carabid beetle whose metropolis is Texas, with isolated records as far north as Nebraska. I picked up one at Duparquet, Quebec (27-VIII-1936). It was identified by A. S. Nicolay, who was amazed at the record. The newness and remoteness of the locality barred out the possibility of it being introduced by man, but I have a single guess:—That summer a dark pall spread over our sky; at first it looked like smoke from distant fires, then more reminiscent of volcanic dust. Then the Press began to take notice, with reports of severe tornadoes in the States to the far south, and explained the cause of the darkened skies of our region as dust from the tornadoes. Had this powerful insect, capable of strong flight in its own right, been caught in the maelstrom of a tornado, then landed back to earth exactly where it should have—on the path of an entomologist?—G. Stace Smith, Creston, B.C.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR LUDIUS LARICIS (Coleoptera, Elateridae).—*Ludius laricis* Brown is one of the most distinctive and most localized click-beetles in our fauna. It was described in THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST for February, 1939, from a series of 30 specimens collected by myself at Creston, B.C., within an area of two acres. A few subsequent catches have been made, and all under unvarying circumstances. No other specimen is known. The field is now about exhausted, and surrounded forests and other likely places have been tested without result; but collectors in other localities where larch occurs might try their luck.

Adults of *L. laricis* are small, reddish-brown, without maculation, about 8 mm. in length; that is, slightly larger than *L. triundulatus* (Randall). They are found in the thick trunk bark of large western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), living trees only, usually about a foot from the ground, sometimes less, but never over two feet; they are well embedded in the bark, where they pupate, from 3 to 6 inches from the surface. I find no trace of them in the summer months, and the collection dates are from late October until early May.—G. Stace Smith, Creston, B.C.