

Mr. Gibson showed specimens of inflated larvæ of some noctuids, which had been collected at Ottawa, or reared from eggs secured from captive female moths. The handsome larvæ of *Mamestra assimilis*, *Peridroma astricta* and *Cucullia intermedia* were included, and attention was drawn to the remarkable change which takes place in the appearance of the latter larva after it passes its last moult. An interesting orange colour variety of the larva of *Cimbex americana*, which had been found on basswood, was also exhibited.

A. G.

NOTE ON A YOUNG SPECIMEN OF THE SNAPPING
TURTLE (*CHELYDRA SERPENTINA*).

A young Snapping Turtle has been received through the kindness of Mr. Capel St. George, of Tramore, Ont., and as it presents certain features which become modified or obscured during growth, the following note may be of interest to the readers of the Ottawa Naturalist.

The length of the specimen from the snout to the tip of the tail is about $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches when the creature is fully stretched; the length of the carapace (or upper shell) 1 11-16 inches, the breadth at the broadest part $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the length of the plastron (or under shell) 1 3-16 inches, the breadth $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The length of the tail is about that of the carapace, whereas in the half-grown and adult it is proportionally shorter. The carapace is very rugose and ridged, features which gradually become smoother as age advances. The crests on the tail, which are so pronounced in the adult, are rudimentary. The shell is feebly ossified. The skin, as in the adult, is warty; the warts on the under parts of the juvenile being whitish in colour. The under sides of the marginal shields are white with dark dots, and there are white spots at or near the borders of the plastron.

The Common Snapping Turtle belongs to the family Chelydridae of the order of the Chelonia or the Turtles; and it may be pointed out that the comparatively small carapace, the small and cruciform plastron, and the incompletely retractile head, indicate the rather primitive character of the family, which contains only two other recorded species: the Snapping Turtle of Mexico and Guatemala (*C. rossignonii*) and the Alligator Snapper (*Macrochelys temminckii*); the latter being the largest of the fresh water tortoises.

The little turtle has been fed at intervals of a few days with dead salmon-trout fry which it eats with avidity.

ANDREW HALKETT.



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