

in the spruce and pine of the Black Hills of South Dakota, may be cited in illustration. *D. frontalis* and *D. ponderosa* attack the living, healthy spruce and pine, and in spite of the resin are able successfully to rear their young within the bark. The tunnels and mines thus formed interfere seriously with the flow of sap, and either kill the tree outright or induce an unhealthy condition favourable to the assistance of other borers and fungous diseases. It seems very probable that many destructive forest fires have been fed by trees dying or dead from the attacks of Scolytids. At present *D. murrayanae* is destroying Jack Pine in Manitoba; and several species of *Dendroctonus* are destructive to pine and spruce in British Columbia. *D. valens* is causing more or less injury at present in pine and spruce in Ontario and Quebec forests.

The Timber-beetles, by driving their tunnels through the wood in many directions, often render timber unfit for use.

Hylastinus obscurus breeds in the roots of clover in many parts of the Northeastern States and in Canada, and in some localities proves a serious pest.

Corthylus punctatissimus occasionally does considerable damage in young sugar-maple plantations.

Scolytus rugulosus, the fruit bark-beetle, attacks unhealthy fruit trees, and occasionally bores in those apparently sound.

Phloeotribus liminaris frequently attacks peach and cherry.

Xyleborus dispar sometimes occurs in diseased or weakened apple trees.

BIRD NOTES, 1912.

During February and early March three species of ducks were seen in London, Ont., at the forks of the Thames, just opposite Dundas Street bridge. Over this bridge the street cars, waggons and foot passengers were constantly passing. The ducks were apparently attracted to the spot by a stretch of open water, the severe frosts of last winter having rendered such feeding grounds unusually scarce.

Feb. 4th—A. Merganser about 20, Golden Eye about 10.
Feb. 15th—A. Merganser 43, Golden Eye 15, Old Squaw 2 (1 m. 1 f.). They were seen at intervals till well into March.

A new record for Middlesex was the Red-breasted Merganser, 1 male, Thames River, near Springbank Park, April 27th.

Observed in Victoria County at or near Sturgeon Lake:
Aug. 9th, one Black-bellied Plover; Aug. 16th to 30th, at frequent intervals, Caspian Tern, possibly six at once; they were usually with the A. Herring Gull or Ring-billed Gull. Two specimens were taken, one young and one adult.

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