

and more prosecuted on rational lines, a result no doubt of the fact that the scientific principles underlying the practice of agriculture are becoming more widely known. Of improved methods based upon scientific truths that the Experimental Farm system has been instrumental in introducing, none give more promise of fruitful results than the one which I have brought before your attention in this lecture : The maintenance and increase of soil fertility through the growth of legumes.

NOTES ON RARE BIRDS OCCASIONALLY BREEDING IN EASTERN ONTARIO.

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From time to time very interesting local lists of birds have appeared in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, but I have not recently noticed any additions to the Ottawa list, published in Vol. V, 1891. If the radius of the district covered by that list is a little extended, so as to take in parts of the counties of Leeds and Frontenac, several birds may be added.

For instance, Brunnich's Murre has been seen in numbers and shot on the River St. Lawrence several times during the past five years, and last winter (1900) a specimen was captured in a field near the village of Lansdowne, Ont., which the writer saw alive.

2. The American Merganser breeds occasionally, selecting a hole in a tree. One such location was at Bobs Lake, near Sharbot Lake, Ont., where the same nesting site was resorted to for several years. This bird also breeds in trees near the head of Wolfe Island, Ont.

3. The Red-breasted Merganser is a common species and breeds both at Charleston Lake, County Leeds, and on small islands at the foot of Lake Ontario. There was a nest last year on Pigeon Island, Lake Ontario.

4. The Wood Duck is unfortunately becoming quite uncommon, and seldom breeds now.

5. The Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) is very common this year about Kingston, and many are flying over the water at this date, May 15th.