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## THE NESTING OF BIRDS AT THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

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The following notes on the nesting of birds at the Central Experimental Farm are not published with the object of encouraging bird nesting at the Farm, for this is prohibited, but to show how many species of birds have been attracted there because they are protected and have found suitable nesting places. This article was written to supplement the report of the Ornithological Branch, which will also be found in this number of *THE NATURALIST*.

As the trees and shrubs at the Experimental Farm increase in size in the forest belts and on the ornamental grounds there is an increasing number of species of birds which breed there. In addition to that part of the Farm which is under cultivation there is a small area where the natural timber still remains, and a marsh and swamp with tamarac and willows and a few other trees. These places attract quite a number of birds which would not be found if all the Farm were under cultivation. The following observations have been made at the Farm during the past sixteen years, but particular attention was paid to the species breeding there during 1902.

Of the water and shore birds there are several which breed in the swamp and marsh near the canal. Although a nest of the American bittern has not been actually found to our knowledge, these birds are frequently seen in the marsh during the breeding season and undoubtedly breed there. A nest of the least bittern with eggs in it was found by Dr. F. A. Saunders in the summer of 1902 in the marsh. A nest of the sora or Carolina rail was