

year after year, but there is practically no increase in the always scanty number of individuals. In truth, orchids seem to have specialized too far or in the wrong direction. The marvellous apparatus they have developed to ensure cross-fertilization is only moderately successful. It was long ago noticed that a large proportion of their flowers did not set seed, the appropriate insects having failed to visit them. And of the seeds that do come to maturity only an infinitesimal percentage ever take root and grow. They are an aristocratic but decadent family, that in the struggle for supremacy, have been left far behind by the pushing Ox-eye Daisy and the parvenu Viper's Bugloss. But while we deplore the apparent lack of vitality and consequent scarcity of these always interesting and often very beautiful plants, we may perhaps find some consolation in the reflection that at any rate none of them will ever be held up to public execration in the Agricultural Department's book of "Farm Weeds."

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NOTES.

THE CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*, Licht.) AT OTTAWA.—A fine adult male cardinal was noticed by Col. Wm. P. Anderson, in his garden at 64 Cooper St., on June 22nd, and in his own and neighboring gardens for two or three days afterwards. It was in company with the common robin and was apparently a wild bird. It fed upon green rowan berries and the green seeds of the lilac. The cardinal has been collected at several places in western Ontario and two have been taken as far east as Toronto. The bird seen by Col. Anderson may have escaped from a cage, but it is not improbable that this individual came north with other birds during the spring migration as it is not rare in New York State up to lat. 40°.

J. M. MACOUN.

A FAMILY OF SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS.—During past seasons many nests of eggs of *Accipiter velox* have been located, but no sets of six have come under investigation. On August 6th, while passing through some evergreen woods, I was attracted by the cries of a Sharp-shinned Hawk. After a close scrutiny of the spruce trees the nest was located in the top of one of them and at first glance it could be seen that it was occupied, as the rim was clogged with excrement and feathers. A nearer approach revealed the tenants peering anxiously through the evergreen boughs. When about an arm's length from the nest a formid-