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been forgotten by the cowbird and warblers, chipping sparrows and other small birds are utilized in a mercenary manner. One egg of dull white, mottled or splashed with brown spots, is deposited in the nest selected, and with that the cares of the real mother end, while the poor little foster mother unconsciously works the certain destruction of some of her own children when she hatches the parasitic egg. When the brood is hatched, young Mr. Cowbird increases in size and importance, with a rapidity that astonishes the foster parents, and his constant demands for "more" are coupled with the once popular refrain "there's only room for one." This is really the case, and the only "one" is the cowbird, the other little fellows are crowded over the edge of the nest and meet a miserable death below. In connection with the history of the cowbird we discover another example of a wrong founded on tradition. Because the European Cuckoo is a parasitic bird, the careless observer in Canada immediately saddles the strange large egg found in the small nest as our Cuckoo. How much truth there is in this I shall state further on certainly the mistake is a common one among those who are not well informed. Two summers ago a farmer who is fond of birds came to me and said: "If you will come with me, I will show you a young cuckoo in a Chipping Sparrow's nest." We were soon at the nest, and at once I saw a grand opportunity to correct the farmer's mistake in a practical manner, and in addition to do a good turn for the Sparrows. Originally there had been four young chipping sparrows, but two had been crowded "overboard" by the intruder, and the other two were occupying a precarious seat on his back. A day more as things were meant the death of the chippies, so

I procured a small canary cage, placed the nest and birds in it, and hung the cage in a tree near the original nesting place. The old birds were but little disturbed by the interference, and continued to feed the young. In a few days the grey birds were able to slip between the bars and flew away, but the stranger was too large, and in time I had the satisfaction of showing the supposed cuckoo to be a lively and healthy blackbird. As soon as this point was satisfactorily determined, the stranger no longer mysterious, was set at liberty and taken in hand by his foster parents.

About Kingston we have two members of the Cuckoo family, the black-billed and the yellow-billed cuckoos, but the latter are exceedingly rare in this district. In the Asylum grounds the black-billed cuckoo arrives in the early part of June, and immediately makes his presence known by his peculiar mournful notes. These notes do not make up the sound cuckoo, but ordinarily cuck-koo-oo, and this cannot be translated into anything else. On the Rideau I once heard a specimen say cuckoo in a half hearted way, but this must have been the exception that proved the rule. The cuckoos' note is so characteristic that the children recognize it at once, and run to tell me when the birds arrive. In the mating season the cuckoos are easily approached, but later in the summer become extremely shy. These birds are commonly found in orchards, and wage persistent war on caterpillars, showing a preference for the destructive tent caterpillar. In England the cuckoo is parasitic in its habits, as much so in fact as our cowbird, but the Canadian cuckoo has shown himself superior to his relative over the seas, and assuming that my friend the Britisher referred to in the early part of this lecture was correct in his classification,