

several hundred. Thus they are soon found in large gatherings upon ploughed fields, where they remain for about a month before dispersing for their nesting grounds. It is, therefore, May before they commence domestic duties, our earliest record for a nest with fresh eggs being May 3. In selecting their breeding grounds these birds show a preference for the larger plains which are well away from trees of any kind. They also nest in colonies like the Chestnut-colored Longspur, in fact the summer homes of these two birds are very similar. The nests of *enthymia* do not differ in any marked degree from those of *praticola*, but they are usually in rather denser vegetation.

Colonies of Oberholser's Horned Larks have been known to us for a number of years situated on a small plain north-west of our home. Another lot of almost a hundred have recently taken up their quarters on some deserted fields which they have occupied for the last two years.

The fact that this race is gregarious seems to account for the individuals being less pugnacious than the Prairie Horned Lark, and perhaps, also, for their being less musical. Our observations indicate that they rise less high in the air while singing and that their song is softer and the notes less distinct. On account of their lateness in commencing to nest it does not seem probable that there are more than two broods in a season. Nor do the birds remain as long upon their breeding grounds, but as soon as the nesting season is over they return to the ploughed fields, where they are joined later on by other kinds and so become hopelessly mixed from a naturalist's point of view.

Thus it will be seen that while these two breeding races are extremely difficult to tell apart, their habits are such as to leave no doubt as to their distinctness.

#### THE PALLID HORNED LARK AND THE HOYT HORNED LARK.

Of the Pallid Horned Lark—*articola*—and Hoyt Horned Lark—*hoyti*—we have little to write. They are, so far as we know, both migrants only, and pass to other parts for nesting purposes. They usually arrive within a few days of each other and with the Lapland Longspurs in large flocks about April 6. Soon the ploughed fields are swarming with them and their value as destroyers of noxious weed seeds must be considerable. At this time they are somewhat secretive. They nearly always run in a crouching attitude and squat down flat at the least alarm, when their colour resemblance to the surrounding landscape makes them almost invisible from a short distance away. The squatting action also prepares them for a spring upwards and as one rises, in alarm, the others quickly follow, so that in a moment thousands of birds are in the air rapidly darting up and down. Then suddenly they drop onto the field again and all is quiet as before.

It is an interesting sight to see these birds, in company with