

THE BOBOLINK'S LOVE FOR ITS HOME.

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(Read before the Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario.)

In the little experience the writer has had in ornithological study, there is no incident more deeply impressed upon his mind than the love of a pair of bobolinks for their home.

June 16th, 1900, the writer and his brother C. were clearing drift material from a piece of island meadow, which overflows during the spring freshet in the St. John River. A bobolink nest containing three eggs was discovered, but not until the nest had been overturned and the eggs scattered about. The nest and eggs were gathered together and put in our lunch basket and taken home. Next day (June 17th) we were again employed in clearing up the drift. As we were about leaving for home, C. inquired what kind of nest that was, with one egg in it? On answering that I did not know of any nest there, but that that was where I had obtained the bobolink's nest the day before, he said there was a nest with one egg. Sure enough, in the depression where the nest had been, the birds had collected a few of the scattered straws of the nest and on them deposited an egg.

What impressed the writer most strongly was that the birds should repair the nest at all, for on just such occasions song and Savannah sparrows' nests had been partly destroyed, but the old birds were discouraged, and never returned to finish incubating. It was for this reason that the bobolink eggs were taken the first day. The egg laid on the 17th was taken and makes one of a set of four eggs, which afford an interesting bit of bobolink history.

When cutting the grass on our island lot, young birds are often found which cannot fly, and when it happens to be a bobolink's nest, the old female will fly about over the spot searching for its young. The flight at such times is undulating in small circles, but often when no person is near, the mother bird alights and searches in the grass to find the young and feed them. If the young are large enough to leave the nest, they are led to a place of safety. The male seems to be much less concerned in respect