

In "The Auk" for April, 1895, I find the following : "I shot a cow-bird on January 18th, 1895, on one of the principal streets of the town (Lancaster, New Hampshire). It was in company with a flock of sparrows feeding in front of a grain store. The bird had been seen at odd times throughout the winter, usually in company with the sparrows."

These occurrences are very likely the result of the same cause, which I believe to be the habit of cow-birds laying their eggs in the nests of other birds and having them do the hatching. The sparrow being a non-migrating bird retains the aliens until all the migrating birds have left, and the few strays that are observed become grain-eaters and remain with the sparrows.

JOHN MACOUN.

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## PRAIRIE HORNED LARK NEST IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

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BY WM H. MOORE.

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

It has been known for some years that prairie horned larks bred in New Brunswick as several times, the old birds had been observed feeding the young. Some years this species is common during the spring migration from March until the middle of May. Being of such retiring habits during the nesting period they are seldom seen, as they sit close to the ground and will not fly except when one is about to walk on them.

This spring (1902) a nest was found by a farmer while crossing a field about April 20, and contained 4 eggs. Through the kindness of Mr. Harry Frazer, a school teacher in the district where the nest was found, I was enabled to get the nest and eggs and give a description below. The nest was situated on the ground on a dry knoll in a field, and was composed of dry grass blades, rather loosely constructed. Later a sheep stepped on one side of the nest breaking one egg, after which the birds deserted it. The nest was of the following dimensions. Diameter inside  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, outside