

I find that the snow on open ground was practically gone this year on March 2nd, which gave the birds 9 days to build and prepare before laying. In other years there is usually snow much later than this; for instance, in 1901, the winter's covering was all melted on March 25th, and in 1900, about April 25th. It is evident from these dates that this Lark is a species of which certain individuals are much influenced by the state of the weather, although a number of other pairs observed this season, were on April 2nd still feeding in couples, and evidently not nesting as yet. On the other hand, the majority of birds seen along the roadsides between March 22nd and 28th were single males whose mates were probably engaged in the task of incubation.

The only other bird we have that regularly breeds very early, is the Great Horned Owl, and unfortunately the local data at hand from which we can make a comparison with the Larks, are exceedingly meagre, consisting of the record of two sets of eggs in 1902 and one in 1901.

Of course one would naturally expect that large birds would be more slowly influenced by abnormal conditions of weather than would small ones, and the data of these 3 sets fully confirm this conclusion. In 1901, when the snow left us on March 25th, and when no Larks' eggs, *probably*, were laid before March 28th or 30th, I took a set of Great Horned Owl, consisting of 2 eggs, almost fresh, on March 19th, six days before the snow had vanished on the open levels; whereas, this year, a set of two was taken near London on March 25th, of which one was almost fresh and the other had been incubated for perhaps 4 or 6 days. These two eggs were probably laid about March 18th and 22nd, after over two weeks of bright warm weather with the ground free of snow, and four or five days later than the date of those found before the snow had vanished in the previous year. These sets were both taken from open nests, that of 1901 from a nest built by a crow in 1900, and that of 1902 from a nest of undecided origin.

The other set from 1902, also confirms the conclusion that these birds do not regard the weather, but in a different way. It consisted of 3 eggs, and was taken on March 21st, from a hole in a basswood stub 42 feet above the ground. Two of these eggs were added, but the shell of the other one was pipped and the