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EARLY NESTING IN 1902.

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

On March 28th, 1902, I made a short trip in the afternoon to look after the Prairie Horned Lark. On a common in the eastern part of this city I found two pairs. One female was feeding rapidly, so that I judged she was in a hurry to get back and protect her eggs from the drizzling rain which was then falling, and her wet appearance hinted that she had been off the nest a good while. After feeding a while she preened herself and shortly after went behind a tuft of grass and rested there, screened from the wind and rain by the height of the tuft. After flushing her once or twice, I decided that she could not have eggs, and left her. The other female was found as usual by following the male, and she had not been watched more than fifteen minutes before she went on the nest, which was situated on the open common. Going over, I found 3 young, apparently about $\frac{1}{3}$ grown, with feathers sprouting on the wings and in good general condition, probably 4 days old. Allowing 11 days for incubation and 3 for laying, the first egg would have been laid on the 11th of March, which is so extraordinarily early that it drew me into a comparison with other birds and other years. These birds often have young flying before May 1st, and I found a nest on April 9th, 1898, with 3 eggs, half incubated, but never earlier. Mr. Morden once took a fresh set of 4 on April 7th, and his only earlier set was of 3 eggs, incubation $\frac{1}{4}$ on March 27th, 1889; but these were far from being 3 young on March 28th!