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Note

COWBIRD PARASITISM OF AN UPLAND PLOVER NEST. To my knowledge there is only one reported record of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism of an Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) nest. J. H. Bowles observed an Upland Plover nest in Minnesota that contained four plover eggs and one Brown-headed Cowbird egg. Friedmann (1931, AUK, 48:60) recorded this observation of cowbird nest parasitism, but he thought the plover was an accidental victim.

On June 18, 1971, I flushed an Upland Plover from a nest in a road right-of-way ditch in northwestern Stutsman County, North Dakota. The nest contained three plover eggs and one cowbird egg. On June 28th a plover was flushed from the nest, and it still contained three plover eggs and one cowbird egg. Characteristically, the clutch size for the plover is four eggs and uncommonly five. The smaller clutch size of this plover may be the result of the female cowbirds habit of sometimes removing one or more eggs of the host species and depositing one or more in their place. On July 12th the nest contained egg shell fragments and membranes indicating the three plover eggs had hatched successfully but the cowbird egg was unhatched and the shell had a puncture in one side.

It is of interest to note that eggs of Upland Plover are larger than eggs of most, if not all, other species that have been victims of cowbird nest parasitism.—Kenneth F. Higgins, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401.