

the bird is peculiar. Charles Dixon, an English naturalist, whose interesting book—"Non-Indigenous British Birds"—may not be known to many readers, says of this sandpiper (he wrote in 1894): "Incredible as it may seem its nest and eggs still remain unknown to science, for it is impossible to accept the description of the latter given by the late Dr. Brewer without authentication. There can be little doubt that this species lays its eggs in the deserted nests of other birds in low trees, like its old-world representative, the Green Sandpiper, is known to do." Now Mr. Dixon, though a high authority on British birds, seems to write too negatively here, for the egg that Dr. Brewer refers to was found near Lake Bombazine, in Vermont, U.S.A., and the bird shot as it left the nest, which of course implies absolute identification. In the next place our Solitary Sandpiper is rather the nearctic representative of the old-world Wood Sandpiper (*Totanns glareola*) and not the Green Sandpiper (*Totanus odoropsus*), according to Yarrell, ("British Birds," 4th Ed.), and as such breeds on the ground, as is the habit with that species, and not in trees like the Green Sandpiper. Since 1894, the nest is said to have been found several times, notably one by Dr. Clarke of Kingston, in 1898 (*vide* "Auk," Oct., 1898). With regard to the nest I found, in company with Dr. Clarke, we made a trip to a large marsh on the south side of Amherst Island, Ont., in June, 1899. This marsh covers many acres of ground and is accessible according to the nature of the season, whether wet or dry. A creek runs through the middle, and empties into Lake Ontario near what is known as "Nut" Island. The shores of the lake hereabouts are sandy, and near the marsh are fringed with a growth of small poplars and willows. Inside this growth of small trees is a bank of sand and pebbles, beyond which are larger trees such as poplar, soft maple and willows, which grow along the edge of the marsh. It was amongst these trees that I found the sandpiper's nest, among some coarse grass not far from the edge of the creek, and between the lake and the marsh. Close by was a good deal of *Spiraea* and a rank growth of long grass and some reeds. Here we noticed several Black-billed Cuckoos, and two pairs of Maryland Yellow-throats. The bird sat very closely, although the eggs were fresh, and rose almost at my feet. I at once said to myself, "that is not a Spotted Sandpiper" not a