

NESTING OF WILSON'S SNIPE.

On the 17th of May, 1905, as I was passing through a patch of low ground overgrown with second-growth willows, a rather large-sized bird flushed from a spot a few feet from where I had jumped over a neck of water. I did not see the exact place from which the bird had flown, but the fluttering sound of her wing caught my ear, and looking ahead I saw the creature, who with outspread tail and wings, was fluttering on the damp earth, and with her long bill down in the mud was giving vent to a series of squeaking sounds. I knew at once that this bird had flushed from a nest, and that the object of her actions was to draw my attention from something that she was very desirous to conceal; but a little research revealed a nest containing four beautiful eggs. These were of a glossy yellow or olive hue, heavily blotched on the larger end, and marked all over the surface with varying spots of brownish-black; and, as I afterward noted, were about one-third incubated. In size they were about one and a half inches in length by one and one-tenth broad. A clump of willows a little elevated stood about six feet from the pool over which the bird had flown, and midway between the water and the willows, which overhung it, the nest was placed. This was simply a slight depression made by the bird in the moss and dry grass, and except from its concealed situation and being a little more expanded, there was no particular distinction between it and those of the more familiar killdeer plover and spotted sandpiper, though the lining was probably of a warmer texture, being of fine dry grass, while the eggs, as in the case of all the ground-nesting waders, were arranged with the small ends inward. At that time I was not aware that "the snipe," of which there is but one species to be found in Ontario, had become a summer resident of our neighborhood; and as there were reasons for believing that the woodcock nested here, I did not pay the attention to the fluttering bird across the pool that the case required, and so made the serious mistake that the nest and eggs before me were those of the latter bird. On comparing those eggs with a specimen of the egg of the woodcock I saw at once that there was a wide difference—not, however, so much in size or form as in color and