

spotted ones and seven of the others. All told, the two of us took about fifty eggs during the day. This date we also found too late, and this year we will visit it on the 1st or 2nd May, and I hope you will prepare for it and have a good day up the ashes about 70 to 90 feet above *terra firma*."

From this extract it is clearly a lawful conclusion that some of the herons in that colony confined their feeding to smaller waters, while others, nesting in the same tree, visited Lake Erie as well, or possibly did the whole of their hunting on its waters.

On a careful examination of the set taken by Mr. Anderson in May, 1899, I find that although the eggs were fresh, yet every one is spotted, varying from two to three small spots on what was probably the most recent egg, up to several dozen spots of various sizes on the earlier specimens. Therefore it is manifest that the eggs become spotted very soon indeed after they are laid, and point strongly to the conclusion that the unspotted ones belong to birds that confine their hunting exclusively to the smaller waters.

As a rule it is very difficult, if not impossible, to establish that there is any fixed difference in the habits of individual birds of a breeding colony, and a hint of individuality such as these spotted eggs gives, is a gratifying discovery to the student of bird life.

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### THE AMERICAN SCOTER IN MIDDLESEX.

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

By W. E. SAUNDERS.

At the last meeting I presented for inspection a specimen of the Surf Scoter, which was one of a flock of three, two of which had been shot on the Thames River, eight miles west, by Messrs. Murdock and Bridgeman. Only a single record had previously existed for the county, and no other Scoter had been recorded at all.

In the early morning of Nov. 13th, while walking up from the waterworks, I saw a duck on the river and after making the usual sneak along the bank, I got a good rifle-shot at it and missed. It flew, but only about a hundred yards, when it lit