

The genuine eggs of the solitary sandpiper are entirely different from spotted sandpiper eggs, in fact there is no American sandpiper egg that has the slightest resemblance to that of the solitary sandpiper. They bear a family likeness to eggs of the European green and wood sandpipers as might be expected, but of course like the birds themselves, the eggs are smaller than those two species of European sandpiper.

Now for my records which are absolutely authentic and thoroughly conclusive and establish once for all the fact that the solitary sandpiper does not lay its eggs on the ground, but deposits them in the nests of other birds often at considerable distance from the ground.

In the spring of 1903, I engaged Mr. Evan Thomson, to collect birds eggs for me in northern Alberta, and when the season was over he sent me notes on the specimens he had collected, amongst which was a record of finding a clutch of sandpiper eggs in an old American robin's nest built in a tree top.

I felt sure these would turn out to be eggs of the solitary sandpiper, and in due time the eggs were sent down and I saw at a glance, the eggs were new to me, but as they very much resembled a set of green sandpiper eggs in my collection, except being smaller in size, I was sure I had at last secured a genuine clutch of solitary sandpiper eggs. Several ornithologists who called to see my collection of birds eggs confirmed my opinion that this was a genuine set of this species. Amongst those who saw them, I may name the Rev. C. J. Young, Madoc, Ont.; Mr. Ed. Arnold, Battle Creek, Mich.; and Mr. Ed. Reinecke of Buffalo, N.Y.; but I thought I would wait for another year in the hope that Mr. Thompson would find another clutch and secure the bird, and in this he was very successful; as the following letter shows:—

"This season on June 9th, I found another set of solitary sandpiper eggs, this time in a grackle's nest in a low tree. I blew the eggs and left them until the next day, intending to return with my gun and shoot the bird, but on again visiting the nest, I found the eggs had gone, evidently the bird had removed them as I saw no trace of egg shells around. However, on the 20th June, I was still more fortunate, as I found another clutch and shot the parent bird as she flew from the nest and secured the four fresh eggs