

## DISCOVERY OF THE EGGS OF SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

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At last the long-sought for eggs of the solitary sandpiper have been found and it affords me much pleasure to be the first ornithologist to have the opportunity of recording its nesting habits, which are unique amongst North American birds, for I have positive proof that this species lays its eggs in the nests of other birds; this being one of the most important discoveries in recent years in regard to the nidification of any American bird.

In "Nests and Eggs of British Birds Non-Indigenous," Mr. Chas. Dixon says of this species:—

"Incredible as it may seem the 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 discarded nests of other birds in low trees like its old world representative the green sandpiper is known to do, search should be made in such places in the summer haunts of the species."

I am aware that other ornithologists have previously recorded what were supposed to be eggs of the solitary sandpiper, but most of these records were simply conjecture and very unsatisfactory. The egg recorded by Dr. Brewer, according to the description that he gives, was doubtless that of the piping plover, the nest being found on the ground, and it will now be seen the solitary sandpiper does not make its nest on the ground.

Another supposed nest of this species was recorded by Dr. Clark of Kingston, Ont., in "The Auk" for Oct., 1898. This same nest was also recorded in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST for December, 1899, by the Rev. J. C. Young, but this nest was found on the ground and the parent was not secured. Mr. C. A. Reed in his work "North American Birds Eggs," figures one of these eggs found by Dr. Clark and it resembles a variety of the spotted sandpiper. The eggs of the solitary sandpiper are larger and more pear shaped than any spotted sandpiper egg I have seen, and the texture of the shell is very different to that of the spotted sandpiper, being a fine grain and polished; then the ground color is pale greenish white, a tint never seen in a spotted sandpiper egg.