

top of the hill, this time making no noise, but just sitting down to wait and see what might happen. After some minutes I heard the call of the plover, and soon located the male, standing still as before. In a short time the female came down the shore and lit near by; but so long as I remained in sight the birds would do nothing but stand still for a long time, run a short distance, and then stand again. However, I marked carefully the place where I first saw the male and went down to it, took up his back track, and trailed him to the nest, which contained four eggs, laid in the bare sand. I found that on my search of the previous day I had passed within six feet of the nest without seeing it, and during the night preceding my success, a fox passed within ten or fifteen feet of the sitting bird, but, fortunately for me, had not winded her.

These eggs have a beautiful creamy buff ground, dotted with small spots of black, and harmonize very well with the color of the sand in which they are laid, as, indeed, does the color of the bird itself, which is almost light enough to persuade one that a running bird is a fleck of foam being blown along the beach.

THE LEAST AND SPOTTED SANDPIPERS.

These complete the list of the four waders that breed upon the island. At the time of Dr. Dwight's visit, the spotted sandpiper was a very rare bird, only two pairs being reported from the whole island. At present it is quite common, and its numbers approach quite closely to those of the least sandpiper. Its habits are, of course, too well known to need any special mention, as they do not differ on Sable Island from those of the bird so familiar throughout Ontario.

THE LEAST SANDPIPER.

The least sandpiper, however, is a bird belonging to the far north, and found in only two or three isolated localities south of Labrador. I found them invariably in pairs, evidently mated, often sitting so close together that two could be obtained at a single shot if desired. But the very fact that two were always seen together proved that they had not yet begun nesting, nor did I see any sign of nest-building going on, although their presence was confined almost exclusively to the damp spots and edges of small inland ponds, where they are said to breed. Their