

GREEN SANDPIPER.

Totanus ochropus, *Temm.*

Le Chevalier Cul blanc.

ALTHOUGH we believe that this delicate species frequently passes the summer in Wales and other mountainous districts of Great Britain, and consequently breeds there, we are not in possession of sufficient facts to warrant us in stating positively that such is the case. We are strengthened in this opinion, however, by the circumstance of Mr. Doubleday, an accurate observer of nature, having informed us that he has observed it flying over the smaller streams in the neighbourhood of Snowdon in the middle of summer. It generally arrives in Britain at the latter end of September, when it disperses either singly or in pairs over nearly every part of our island, more particularly its interior portions, but always in very small numbers. It is most frequently met with during its autumnal and spring migrations, and appears to give preference to the edges of small ponds, rivulets, and ditches, particularly those which are secluded: its habits in this respect differ very considerably from those of most of the other members of its family, which resort to the sea-beach and the sides and mouths of large rivers as favourite places of abode.

The snow-white rump of the Green Sandpiper renders it a conspicuous object when flushed, at which time it utters a shrill whistling note, from which circumstance it is known to many persons, particularly sportsmen, by the name of the Whistling Snipe: it runs with great activity, but generally flies low, skimming over the surface of the water, and following the bends and angles of the stream. It possesses an extensive range of habitat, being dispersed over the whole of Europe, the greater part of Asia, and Africa; but it is not found in America, as most naturalists have asserted it to be, its place there being supplied by a nearly allied but totally distinct species. It differs from the Wood Sandpiper in its larger size, its shorter tarsi, and in the more diminutive spotting of the upper surface.

According to M. Temminck, the nest is made by the side of a stream, and the eggs are greenish white blotched with brown.

The sexes are so nearly alike in size and colour that a description of both is quite unnecessary.

The top of the head, back of the neck, and upper surface olive brown; the back, the scapularies, and most of the wing-feathers marked at their edges with minute spots of yellowish white; quills dark brown; sides of the chest and flanks longitudinally streaked and spotted with brown; rump, under surface, and tail white, the latter having the four central feathers strongly barred with black; feet and legs olive; bill black with a tinge of olive; irides dark brown.

WOOD SANDPIPER.

Totanus Glareola, *Temm.*

Le Chevalier sylvain.

THIS species has been so frequently confounded with the preceding, that we are induced to figure both on the same Plate, in order to enable our readers more readily to distinguish their differential characters. There is no difference in the colouring of the sexes of either species, and as their plumage is not influenced by the seasons or other causes, we trust our Plate will illustrate every feature necessary to render their distinctness sufficiently apparent.

The Wood Sandpiper is still more rarely seen in the British Islands than its near ally, but in every other particular the history of the preceding species is applicable to the present; it is, however, even more widely dispersed, as is proved by its being found not only over the whole of the Asiatic continent, but in most of the islands of the Pacific Ocean also, which we believe is not the case with the Green Sandpiper.

A streak of brown passes between the bill and the eyes; crown of the head and sides of the neck brown, streaked with a darker tint; whole of the breast and scapularies dark brown, the edge of each feather being spotted with greyish white; lower part of the rump and the tail white, the latter numerously barred with brown; legs and feet dark olive; bill black; irides dark brown.

We have figured each species of the natural size.