

For the following note respecting this species I am indebted to H. E. Dresser, Esq. :—

“I found Temminck's Stint breeding sparingly amongst the network of islands surrounding the harbour of Uleåborg, and shot several in full breeding-plumage on the 26th of May. They were then still in flocks; and I endeavoured unsuccessfully to find some specimens of *Actodromas minuta* amongst them. I spent the 12th of June on the islands outside of Uleåborg, looking for nests, and found one of this bird on Akkio Island. Both I and the lad who accompanied me saw the old birds as soon as we landed, and at once commenced a regular search for the nest, but did not succeed in finding it until we had carefully gone over the whole of the ground. It was situated near the middle of the island, some twenty or more yards from the shore, and, being placed where the grass was thick, it was not seen until almost trodden upon. It was a mere hollow in the earth, such as might be made by working the large end of a hen's egg in soft soil, with small hay-straws neatly arranged round the inside, and contained four eggs all placed with the pointed end towards the centre. Both birds were very fearless and did not go far from the nest; but every now and then flew up in the air and descended again in circles, fluttering like a skylark, uttering at the same time a peculiar churring sound, which they also emitted while sitting on any elevated place. A favourite perch of one of them was a pole which had been set up for a pilot's mark, but had been broken off about eight feet from the ground; on this the bird would sit for a quarter of an hour at a time, churring all the while, and would allow me to approach within a few feet of it.”

The late Mr. Wolley, writing to Mr. Hewitson, says :—“I have found this species breeding in several localities north of the Bothnian Gulf; but it is scarce, and, as far as I have seen, confined to a few favourite spots. Grassy banks and pastures by the water-side are the kinds of places where it takes up its breeding-quarters, and it seems to delight to be near houses. Nothing can be more interesting or pretty than this little bird in the early part of summer; it is so tame that one could often catch it in a net at the end of a stick. At one time it is hovering with its wings raised over its back or floating about, and it reminds one of some insect rather than of any other bird; at another time it may be seen standing on the top of a stone or stake, or the gable end of a cottage; and whether hovering or standing on its perch, it utters a constant trilling note, of which I can best give an idea by saying it brought to my recollection that of the Grasshopper-warbler, though the resemblance is perhaps slight. When its eggs are very near, it sometimes runs about one's feet; and, though it cannot but be anxious, it seems as busy as ever picking gnats and other insects off the grass; one nest I found was a short stone's throw from a cottage where children were playing about in all directions; another was only a pace or two from a spring from which women drew water every day, and passers-by often stopped to drink. The nest is very simple—a few short bits of hay in a little saucer-shaped hollow amongst thin grass or sedge, generally not far from the water's edge, but sometimes in the middle of a meadow. In 1854 the eggs were laid about Midsummer-day.”—*Hewitson's Coloured Illustrations of the Eggs of British Birds*, 3rd. edit. vol. ii. p. 362.

The eggs, which are four in number, vary considerably in colour,—one of the two figured by Mr. Hewitson being of a pale or creamy stone-colour, with numerous spots of pinkish or pale purple and reddish brown; the ground-colour of the other is light buff, more numerous blotched and spotted, particularly at the larger end, with purplish and reddish brown, while that I have given is still richer in colour and more deeply spotted.

For my figures of the young I am indebted to Mr. Newton, who informs me that the drawing kindly lent by him was taken with great care from a young bird hatched from the egg by carrying it in a small box inside his shirt for some thirty-six hours.

In summer the feathers of the upper surface are dull olive with dark brown centres and a wash of rufous on the margins of those of the back and axillaries; line from the forehead to the eye greyish-white; primaries dark brown, the shaft of the outer feather white, of the remainder light brown; edge of the secondaries white, forming a line across the wing when spread; tail light brown; chin greyish white; throat and breast greyish brown, with a line of dark brown down the centre of each feather; abdomen and under tail-coverts white; bill olive-black; irides dark brown; legs and feet olive.

In winter the plumage of the upper surface is of a nearly uniform dull olive, the dark marks on the chest are absent, and the sides of the chest washed with dull olive like the back.

The Plate represents two adults, several young birds, and an egg, all of the natural size.