

young in the downy state, and partially feathered, I only obtained one nest of eggs. The nest is generally placed at a short distance from the water, among stunted heath or scrubby plants of the bog-myrtle, or among coarse grass and rushes. It is placed in a hollow and is constructed of dry grass and other plants. The eggs are four in number."

The late Mr. John Wolley, writing to Mr. Hewitson from Lapland, says :—

"The Wood Sandpiper breeds in both great and small marshes, and in wet places, even on the slope of a hill, as happened this spring within a hundred yards of where I am now writing, in a place where we were often passing. Looking out of my window almost any time in the summer, I could see several of these birds standing on the tops of stakes, and perhaps hear them crying *leero, leero*, or uttering their notes of alarm. It is beautiful to see the Wood-Sandpiper playing in the air in the early spring. It rises to a great height, and then, suddenly steadying its wings and keeping them open, it glides gently upwards for a short distance, and down again on the other side of the little arch it so forms upon the former line of its course. This unexpected play in the flight has a very pretty effect, it is done so easily and gracefully."

Respecting the nest mentioned above as having been found by Mr. Hancock, Mr. Hewitson says, "On the 3rd of June 1853, he succeeded, after a long and persevering watch, in discovering the nest and eggs of this species for the first time in Britain, at Prestwick Carr, near Newcastle. 'The nest,' says Mr. Hancock " 'was situated on a hillock in a marshy part of the carr, amongst heather and long grass, a situation perfectly similar to that in which the Snipe builds. It is composed of fine grass or carex, loosely put together, and measures three inches inside diameter, and two inches deep. The eggs were quite fresh. A friend shot the parent bird, which is now in my collection.' "

Mr. Yarrell describes the eggs as "pointed in shape, of a pale greenish-white, spotted and speckled, particularly over the broad end, with dark reddish-brown, and as measuring one inch and seven lines in length by one inch and half a line in breadth."

The food consists of worms, small snails, insects and their larvæ.

"The Wood-Sandpiper," says Mr. Wheelwright, in his 'Spring and Summer in Lapland,' "was very common here; and far different are the quiet unobtrusive habits of this little bird during the breeding-season to the boisterous, noisy behaviour of its congener the Green Sandpiper. Early in the summer the Wood-Sandpiper utters a pretty little song, which it trills out when seated on a tussock of grass, or when rising in the air in the vicinity of the nest. I have much oftener seen this bird seated on a tree or on a rail than the Green Sandpiper, although that bird will occasionally perch."

Mr. Stevenson informs me that, "compared with the Green Sandpiper, the present bird is a scarce migrant in Norfolk, and has become more so of late years, the few specimens procured being killed on their migratory passage in April and May and again in August and September."

Considerable difference occurs in the marking of the plumage at opposite seasons of the year. In summer the neck is much more strongly marked and streaked than in winter.

The illustrations of this and the allied species, *T. ochropus*, will show very plainly how the two differ from each other.

The Plate represents a male and a female in their summer dress, with a brood of young, all of the size of life.