

The eggs are dull white, sometimes faintly tinged with pale green. The clutch consists of four, rarely three. They average 18.7×14.5 mm. Both parents are very assiduous in their care of the nest and young, creeping about near at hand while one is at the nest; if the nest is much handled they will desert even if the young have hatched. After the nesting-season small family parties are sometimes seen but pairs are the rule.

Young birds, on hatching, have a dull orange-yellow skin which is soon covered with black down; the inside of the chick's mouth is also orange.

Dendroplex picus (Gmel.). Picine Wood-Hewer.

I know little of the habits of this Bird, though it is not uncommon in the second-growth jungle, about the rows of *Erythrina* trees in the plantations and in the scattered bush up the Abary River. Its method of searching crevices in the bark of trees is entirely Creeper-like, starting at the base and working upwards, often progressing quite unconcernedly on the underside of a bough. The *Erythras*, with their rough bark, are favourite trees with the species.

[To be continued.]

II.—*The Nest and Eggs of the Eastern Asiatic Knot*, *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsf.). By H. THO. L. SCHAANNING, M.B.O.U.

UP till now nothing has been recorded in regard to the breeding of this little-known Asiatic species. The latest account of the subject seems to be that of Dr. Hartert, who in 1920 (Vög. pal. Faun. p. 1589) writes: "Die Brütplätze scheinen noch nicht bekannt zu sein, müssen aber in östlichen- vermüthlich nordöstlichen-Siberien liegen"; and this is also confirmed by Mr. A. C. Bent in his recently-published 'Life-Histories of North American Shore-Birds, Order Limicolæ,' Part i. p. 145, 1927.

It is now with much pleasure that I am able to give a

description of the nest and eggs of this rare Wader. In a very fine collection of bird-skins and eggs from north-eastern Siberia made by my late friend Mr. Johan Koren in the Kolyma district in 1914-19, is included a single pair, male and female, of the Eastern Knot in breeding-plumage and a beautiful clutch of four eggs. On the label is written in the handwriting of Mr. Koren:—" *Tringa crassirostris* [i. e. *tenuirostris*], 4 eggs, fresh, collected by Johan Koren, mouth of the R. Kolyma, N.E. Siberia, June 19th, 1917. Nest located at 1500 feet elevation on a barren mountain ridge. The eggs resting in a slight depression in short reindeer moss. Both parent birds secured." (no. 101.)

In the collection there is also a clutch of *Limosa l. baueri* Naum. and two clutches of *Turdus fuscatus* Pall., all taken "in the larch forest on the mountain side" on the same date (19 June, 1917) as the clutch of the Knot, and I presume that the Knot's nest was also taken at any rate in the neighbourhood of the forest.

Mr. Koren died during the expedition in Siberia in March 1919, but his collections were brought home to Norway by Mr. Raold Amundsen with the 'Maud' Expedition in 1925, and are now in my hands for description.

The colour of the eggs is very characteristic, and the appearance of the clutch differs from that of all other Waders which are known to me: the ground-colour is greyish-yellow, uniformly closely speckled with reddish-brown, and between are underlying lilac spots. At the broad end of the egg the reddish-brown forms a distinct cap or wreath with a few twisted lines of tar-brown colour.

The four eggs measure in mm.: 41.2 × 31.7, 44.4 × 31.3, 45.4 × 30.7, and 45.4 × 32.3, the average being 44.1 × 31.5.

The parent birds are both in full breeding-plumage. In the male the back is a purer black and the scapulars are much more rust-colour than in the female; and the feathers of the neck have more clearly-marked rusty-coloured edges. The bill and legs are quite black.

The two specimens measure in mm.:—Male: wing 189, bill 46, tarsus 37; female: wing 195, bill 39, tarsus 36.