is visible, the place of these tints being taken by several shades of chocolate-brown. Such examples were long considered to form a distinct species, the *S*. *sabinii,* but its invalidity is now admitted. Other examples in which buff or rust-colour pre­dominates have also been deemed distinct, and to those has been applied the epithet *russata.* Again, a slight deviation from the ordinary formation of the tail, whose rectrices normally number 14, and present a rounded termination, has led to the belief in a species, S. *brehmi,* now wholly discredited. But, setting aside two European species, there are at least a score, belonging to various parts of the world. Thus N. America produces *G. wilsoni,* so like the English Snipe as not to be easily distin­guished except by the possession of 16 rectrices, and Australia has G. *australis,* a larger and somewhat differently coloured bird with 18 rectrices. India, while affording a winter resort to the common species, which besides Europe extends its breeding range over the whole of N. Asia, has also at this season the Pin-tailed Snipe, *E. stenura,* in which the number of rectrices is still greater, varying from 20 to 28, it is said, though 22 seems to be the usual number. This curious variability, deserving more attention than it has yet received, only occurs in the outer feathers of the series, which are narrow in form and extremely stiff, there being always 10 in the middle of ordinary breadth.

Those who only know the Snipe as it shows itself in the shoot­ing-season, when without warning it rises from the boggy ground uttering a sharp note that sounds like *scape, scape,* and, after a few rapid twists, darts away, if it be not brought down by the gun, to disappear in the distance after a desultory flight, have no con­ception of the bird’s behaviour at breeding-time. Then, though flushed quite as suddenly, it will fly round the intruder, at times almost hovering over his head. But, if he have patience, he will see it mount aloft and there execute a series of aerial evolutions of an astounding kind. After wildly circling about, and reaching a height at which it appears a mere speck, where it winnows a random zigzag course, it abruptly shoots downwards and aslant, and then as abruptly stops to regain its former elevation, and this process it repeats many times. A few seconds after each of these headlong descents a mysterious sound strikes his ear— compared by some to drumming, and by others to the bleating of a sheep or goat,@@1 which sound evidently comes from the bird as it shoots downwards, and then only. It is now generally accepted that these sounds are produced by the vibration of the webs of the outer tail-feathers, the webs of which are modified. A similar sound may be made by affixing those feathers to the end of a rod and drawing them rapidly downwards in the same position as they occupy in the bird’s tail while it is performing the feat.@@2 The air will also ring with loud notes that have been syllabled *tinker, tinker, tinker,* while other notes in a different key, Something like *djepp, djepp, djepp* rapidly uttered, may be heard as if in response. The nest is always on the ground, and is a rather deep hollow wrought in a tuft of herbage and lined with dry grass-leaves. The eggs are four in number, of a dark olive colour, blotched and spotted with rich brown. The young when freshly hatched are beautifully clothed in down of a dark maroon, variegated with black, white and buff.

The Double or Solitary Snipe of English sportsmen, S. *major,* a larger species, also inhabits N. Europe, and may be readily re­cognized by the white bars in its wings and by its 16 or occasion­ally 18 rectrices. It has also a very different behaviour. When flushed it rises without alarm-cry, and flies heavily. In the breeding season much of its love-performance is exhibited on the ground, and the sounds to which it gives rise are of another character; but the exact way in which its “ drumming ” is effected has not been ascertained. Its gesticulations\* at this time have been well described by Professor Collett in a communication

to H. E. Dresser’s *Birds of Europe* (vii. 635-637). It visits Great Britain every year at the close of summer, but in very small numbers, and is almost always seen singly—not un­commonly in places where no one could expect to find a Snipe.

The third species of which any details can here be given is the Jack-@@3 or Half-Snipe, S. *gallinula,* the smallest and most beauti­fully coloured of the group. Without being as numerous as the common or full Snipe, it is of frequent occurrence in Great Britain from September to April (and occasionally both earlier and later) ; but it breeds only, so far as is known, in N. Scandinavia and Russia; and the first trustworthy information on that subject was obtained by J. Wolley in June 1853, when he found several of its nests near Muonioniska in Lapland.@@4 Instead of rising wildly as do most of its allies, it generally lies so close as to let itself be almost trodden upon, and then takes wing silently, to alight\* at a short distance and to return to the same place on the morrow. In the breeding-season, however, it is as noisy and conspicuous as its larger brethren while executing its aerial evolutions.

As a group the Snipes are in several respects highly specialized. We may mention the sensitiveness of the bill, which, though to some extent noticeable in many Sandpipers (*q.v.),* is in Snipes carried to an extreme by a number of filaments, belonging to the fifth pair of nerves, which run almost to the tip and open immediately under the soft cuticle in a series of cells that give this portion of the surface of the premaxillaries, when exposed, a honeycomb-like appearance. Thus the bill becomes a most delicate organ of sensation, and by its means the bird, while probing for food, is at once able to distinguish the nature of the objects it encounters, though these are wholly out of sight. So far as is known the sternum of all the Snipes, except the Jack-Snipe, departs from the normal Limicoline formation, a fact which tends to justify the removal of that species to a separate genus, *Limnocryptes.@@b* (A. N.)

**SNIP SNAP SNOREM,** an old game at cards, sometimes called *Earl of Coventry.* There are several methods of playing, but in the commonest a full whist pack is used and any number of players may take part. The pack is dealt, one card at a time, and the eldest hand places upon the table any card he likes. Each player in his turn then tries to match the card played just before his, making use of a prescribed formula if successful. Thus, if a king is played, the second player lays down another king (if he can) calling out “ Snip! ” The next player lays down the third king, saying “ Snap! ” and the next the fourth king with the word "Snorem. ” A player not being able to pair the card played may not discard, and the holder of “ Snorem ” has the privilege of beginning the next round. The player who gets rid of all his cards first wins a counter from his companions for each card still held by them.

**SNOILSKY, CARL JOHAN GUSTAF,** Count (1841-1903), Swedish poet, was born at Stockholm on the 8th of September 1841. He was educated at the Clara School, and in 1860 became a student at Upsala. He was trained for diplomacy, which he quitted for work at the Swedish Foreign Office. As early as 1861, under the pseudonym of “ Sven Tröst,” he began to print poems, and he soon became the centre of the brilliant literary society of the capital. In 1862 he published a collection of lyrics called *Or chideer ("*Orchids ”). During 1864 and 1865 he was in Madrid and Paris on diplomatic missions. It was in 1869, when he first collected his *Dikter* under his own name, that Snoilsky took rank among the most eminent contemporary poets. His

@@@1 Hence in many languages the Snipe is known by names signifying "Flying Goat,” "Heaven’s Ram,” as in Scotland by "Heather- bleater.”

@@@2 Cf. Meves, *Oefvers. K. Vet.-Akad. Förh.* (1856), pp. 275-277 (transl. *Naumannia,* 1858, pp. 116, 117), and *Proc. Zool. Society* (1858), p. 202, with Wolley’s remarks thereon, *Zool. Garten* (1876), ρρ. 204-208; **P.** H. Bahr (*Proc. Zool. Soc. of London,* 1907, p. 12) has given a full account of the subject, with diagrams of the modified feathers.

@@@3 Though this word is clearly not intended as a nickname, such as is the prefix which custom has applied to the Daw, Pie, Redbreast, Titmouse or Wren, one can only guess at its origin or meaning. It may be, as in Jackass, an indication of sex, for it is a popular belief that the Jack-Snipe is the male of the common species; or, again, it may refer to the comparatively small size of the bird, as the "jack ” in the game of bowls is the smallest of the balls used, and as fisher­men call the smaller Pikes Jacks.

@@@4 His account was published by Hewitson in May 1855 (*Eggs Br. Birds,* 3rd ed., ii. pp. 356-358).

@@@5 The so-called Painted Snipes, forming the genus *Rhynchaea,* demand a few words. Four species have been described, natives respectively of S. America, Africa, India with China, and Australia. In all of these it appears that the female is larger and more brilliantly coloured than the male, and in the Australian species she is further distinguished by what in most birds is emphatically a masculine property, though its use is here unknown—namely, a complex trachea, while the male has that organ simple. He is also believed to undertake the duty of incubation.