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Shorebirds leaving the water to defecate.—A report that some Old World shorebirds when feeding in water go ashore to defecate and then return to the water (Reynolds, Brit. Birds, 58: 384, 1965) appeared while my note on such behavior by several American herons was in press (Wilson Bull., 78: 316, 1966). I have since watched intensively such shorebirds as occur along Gwynns Falls at Woodlawn, Maryland, and find that this is also a habit—with exceptions—of the Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), but not of the Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*). The manifestation of the habit appears to be proportional to the degree each species is a water feeder.

The uneven crest of a concrete dam at Woodlawn sporadically has one or two dry sections and one or two with a mere film of water flowing over. Foraging back and forth across the crest, Spotted Sandpipers may defecate while crossing a dry strip. They may walk out onto a dry spot, defecate, and then turn back into the flow they had left, or they may fly from the water to an abutment to defecate or to a rock in shallows below the dam. Foraging in those shallows they fly onto a rock to defecate or do so while crossing a rock or mud bar in their path. Walking a sinuous course in and out of the water's edge, they defecate while on shore. While foraging they sometimes walk a few feet from the water up the sloping shore, defecate, then go back into the water. Of 57 defecations that I have seen water-foraging birds make, 49 were in these ways, and after 44 of them the birds reentered the water, after 5 they stayed ashore. Seven times I have seen birds on the dam defecate in very shallow water or on barely moist spots, only once in water of appreciable depth. Apparently water above toe depth normally inhibits defecation. In contrast I have eight times seen flying birds defecate into the stream.

On 17 occasions that I have seen water-foraging Solitary Sandpipers defecate, they have left the water to do so and then returned, but one bird that spent long periods idling in very shallow water twice defecated there. Five out of eight Killdeers have left the water and returned; only one of the others defecated in water of any depth. These species did not forage on the dam; elsewhere they have behaved like the Spotted Sandpipers.

Only 4 out of 10 times did Least Sandpipers defecate on shore; twice birds came out of the water, defecated, then stayed ashore, and twice birds that were weaving in and out of the stream defecated while on shore; another time a weaving bird defecated in the water, and 5 times birds standing or feeding in the water did so.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.