



FIGURE 1. The first-hatched Double-striped Thick-knee chick, probably one to two days old.

colored eggs and inconspicuous nest were difficult to see when I was a few meters from the nest.

At about 11:30 on 25 April, I revisited the nest, and again the adults quickly left the area as I approached. The nest now contained one peeping chick and one unhatched egg. The chick was buff with black markings (fig. 1). It could walk, but not strongly, and remained within 1 m of the nest. The chick, too, was almost indiscernible at a few meters owing to its cryptic coloring. The next day, 26 April, I visited the nest at 07:45 and saw no adults when I approached the nest. The other egg was hatching, the chick inside pecking at the large end of the egg. Both chicks were peeping. The older chick, still walking weakly, stayed within a meter of the nest. When checked at 11:20, the second chick had hatched and

both were peeping in the nest. The new chick appeared approximately one-third smaller than the older one. Most of the eggshell, which was bright white on the inside, was gone. Neither chick moved away from the nest and there was no sign of the parents. On 27 April I checked the nest at 07:30 and found the younger chick dead in the nest, but no sign of the older chick or the parents.

Another nest of this species was recently observed in Guanacaste by Alexander F. Skutch, who has kindly offered his notes. On 22 January 1973, while driving near Palo Verde over a low, level area with an open growth of palo verde trees, he noticed a Double-striped Thick-knee sitting on the ground about 16 m away. It remained sitting until he approached closely. The bird's departure revealed an egg lying in a slight, unlined depression in an open area rough from the dried hoofprints of cattle. When visited two days later, an adult was still incubating the single egg, its mate standing a few meters away. Again it permitted a close approach, and one member of the pair returned to the egg as soon as Skutch returned to the car. The mate followed but stopped a few meters from the nest. The single egg measured 57 mm by 41 mm in diameter. It was pointed-ovate, dark gray, with large and small blotches of dark brown and pale lilac. Skutch notes, that, in his experience, Double-striped Thick-knees are not shy.

At the nest that I observed, the incubation period of the second egg was at least 27 days. Lack (1968) placed the usual incubation period for Burhinidae at 26 days and the interval between the laying of successive eggs at two days. Thus, it is possible that the second egg had not yet been laid at the nest observed by Skutch. A clutch of two in this species would conform to the normal clutch size of the other seven species in the family, although the two *Esacus* species often lay only one egg (Maclean, *Auk* 89: 314, 1972).

These observations bear out Lack's (1968) characterization of the nest and parental behavior of Thick-knees.

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## GRAY HAWK FEEDING ON WORM LIZARD

STEVE WEST

PCS Box 5171  
APO New York 09020

On 30 September 1973, at the end of Gamboa Pipeline Road, Canal Zone, Panama, I startled a Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) that had been sitting on the ground. On the chance that the bird might have been feeding, I walked to the spot and found the distal portion of a small snake-like creature which I collected for identification.

Later, Professor Eustorgio Mendez, vertebrate zoologist, Gorgas Memorial Laboratory (GML), Panama

City, Republic of Panama, identified the specimen as a worm lizard (*Amphisbaena fuliginosa*); it is now preserved at GML.

Professor Mendez felt this record was unusual because lizards of this family (Amphisbaenidae) are subterranean. His specimens of this worm lizard from the same general area were obtained only from fresh road cuts. My specimen was fresh when collected about 10:30, indicating it had just been taken. As there was no construction underway in that area of the Canal Zone, the worm lizard was, for reasons unknown, stranded above ground and captured by the Gray Hawk.

I thank Professor Mendez for the identification of the specimen.

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