collected and is now at the Western Foundation (#11,250). The specimen is dull white with a heavily pitted, almost corrugated surface. The rough shell bears numerous small rounded granulations and excrescences. The egg is oval in shape and measures 75.71 x 57.45 mm. The empty shell weighs 11.251 g with a blowhole 4.6 mm in diameter. According to Sheffler's notes, the egg contained a half-developed embryo. To our knowledge, it is the only egg known for the species.

In the spring of 1959, it was learned that the Tablas Mountain site was again being used by a pair of Solitary Black Eagles. R. G. Hannum was sent from Los Angeles to investigate the report, but by the time he reached the remote locality, the nesting attempt had already met with failure. Local residents, who were able to look down into the nest from a nearby cliff, told him that ravens (*Corvus corax*) had broken and eaten the single egg which the nest had originally contained.

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THE EGG OF THE CROWNED SOLITARY EAGLE, *HARPYHALIAETUS CORONATUS*

HELMUT SICK
AND
DANTE MARTINS TEIXEIRA

The Crowned Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) formerly was seldom seen in captivity. Since the construction of Brasília and the exploration of the surrounding region, however, the bird is now seen regularly in Brazilian zoos, where it is brought from the State of Goiás. One such eagle in the zoo at Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, laid an egg in early October, 1974. This egg, acquired by the junior author for the Museu Nacional in Rio de Janeiro, seems to be the first well-documented one for the species.

The egg is a rounded oval with the ends similar in shape; it is unmarked, white, rough in texture, and without gloss; one end bears a wart-like bump. Held against the light, the inside of the shell is blue-green, which is the normal inside color of accipitrid eggs (Schönwetter, Handb. der Oologie I:138, 1967). The egg measures 65.0 × 52.6 mm; its full weight was 100 g; the empty shell weighs 10.3 g.

An egg in the Nehrkorn collection from São Paulo, Brazil, possibly of this eagle (see Schönwetter, p. 145), differs from the present one in being larger (69.3 × 60.0 mm) and having some gloss. A larger bird of prey which may occur in São Paulo is the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*). Its eggs are unmarked, but sometimes are so heavily nest-stained that they appear spotted (Bond, Auk 44:562, 1927).

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TEMPORAL PATTERNS IN LAYING, HATCHING AND INCUBATION OF SOOTY TERNS AND BROWN NODDIES

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Temporal patterns in laying, hatching and incubation of wild birds are rarely studied in detail, probably because they are difficult to observe. However, these attributes are reasonably accessible for study in colonial sea birds, because such birds often lay near each other in the open and are tolerant of people.

In 1971 and 1972, I studied temporal patterns in laying, hatching and incubation of two species of colonial sea birds, the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) and the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), on Manana Island, a 25-ha volcanic islet about 1 km north of the eastern tip of Oahu, Hawaii.

METHODS

In 1971, I painted a fluorescent line around a segment, roughly 100 m × 1 to 10 m, of the inner crater rim of Manana where Brown Noddies nest. During laying, I searched this area at 4-hr intervals for 48 hr. Each newly discovered egg was numbered and the same number painted by the nest. Beginning about one month later, I checked the marked eggs at 4-hr intervals from before any had hatched until after the last hatched. I moved rapidly, and the Brown Noddies nearly always returned to their nests within a few seconds after I passed. I followed a similar procedure in 1972 except that I searched an area about twice as long and checked for new eggs for 96 hr instead of 48 hr.

In 1972, I laid out 16 contiguous 18.9-m^2 plots in a sandy area of the Sooty Tern colony by tying 0.6-cm rope close to the ground between stakes. I checked for laying and hatching as previously described for the Brown Noddy, except that I placed a numbered rock beside each egg when discovered.