

The presence of certain of the curculionids (*Limnobaris* sp., *Sitona cylindricollis*, *S. hispidula*) is explained by the fact that their host plants grew near the water's edge, and the presence of the other terrestrial insects by the fact that many were trapped on the pond's surface and washed to shore. Dytiscids were represented mainly by adults (only one larva), chironomids mostly by larvae and some pupae (only one adult), and hydrophilids by about equal numbers of larvae and adults.

Not included here are those insects that could not be identified beyond order or family because they had been crushed or had essential parts missing.

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**The incubation period of the Hawaiian stilt.**—The incubation period of the Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus h. knudseni*) appears not to have been recorded in scientific literature. On 3 May 1964, W. Michael Ord, Paul Breesse, and I found a nest containing three eggs at the Kaneohe Marine Base on windward Oahu, Hawaii. A fourth egg was laid the following day. I checked this nest on several later dates, finding the first egg pipped (with a hole about one-fourth inch in diameter) at 0845 hours, 27 May. By 0800, 28 May, three of the young had hatched and their down had dried. Two of the downy young remained in the nest at my approach, but the third bird ran off about 18 inches and crouched at the base of a clump of salt grass. The head, neck, and most of the body of the fourth bird had already broken out of its shell, although the rear end of the bird was not completely free from a portion of the larger end of the egg shell.

If we reckon, after M. M. Nice (*Condor*, 56: 173, 1954), the incubation period to be the elapsed interval between the laying of the last egg in the clutch and the hatching of the last young, when all of the eggs hatch, the incubation period for this clutch of eggs was 24 days.

G. C. Munro (*Birds of Hawaii*, Rutland, Vermont, Bridgeway Press, 1960; see p. 60), citing an 1891 source, gives a clutch size of 8 to 12 eggs for the Hawaiian stilt. This appears certainly to be in error. Neither Ord, who has done much field work in Hawaii, nor I have ever seen an Hawaiian stilt nest with more than four eggs.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*.

**The eggs and nesting ground of the Puna Plover.**—During an excursion in the first week of January, 1965, to the Andean "Tolares" and salt lagoons of the Altiplano in northwestern Jujuy, Argentina, I found the Puna Plover (*Charadrius alticola*) on its breeding grounds. The species is found in cold, arid, plateau regions from Peru to Antofagasta, Chile, and in the high Andes of northwestern Argentina. The only breeding record seems to be the observation of a pair with one young at Salar del Huasco in the Cordillera of Tarapaca, Chile, although the species is also supposed to breed at Lago Cotacotani, at an altitude of about 15,750 feet in the Cordillera of Arica (J. B. Goodall, *Las aves de Chile*, vol. 2, 1951; p. 211).



Figure 1. Eggs of the Puna Plover.

The nesting place of the Puna Plover was a grassy plain about 165 feet from a large salty lagoon at an altitude of about 13,000 feet. The eggs were clearly visible as the stiff grass had been extensively grazed on by llamas. There were many areas of exposed sand and mud in the vicinity, indicating that these plovers prefer grassy ground for nesting, unlike many other small plovers which nest on sandy or stony ground. The bird incubating the eggs described below was very shy and disappeared at my approach. An immature bird was collected and contained remains of a single crustacean.

Two eggs were obtained (Figure 1); both are similar to those of other small plovers. The ground color is sandy with a wash of brown, marked with fine spots of violet and spots and streaks of black. The edges of the black markings are sharp. The eggs measure  $34.8 \times 24.7$  mm and  $34.9 \times 24.2$  mm.—GUNNAR HOY, *Museo Zoologico de la Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Fisicas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.*

**“Resting” heart and respiratory rates of small birds.**—The data presented in Table 1 were recorded in August, 1962, under the auspices of the Department of Biological Sciences, Douglass College, Rutgers University. Birds were obtained by mist-netting near New Brunswick, New Jersey. Electrocardiograms were taken on the day of capture on a specially adapted Sanborn Viso-Cardiette and subjects then released without determination of sex. Age was established on the basis of plumage.

Small nickel-plated pins were used as electrodes, one being placed through the integument over the synsacrum and the other through the posterior margin of the sternum. With this arrangement a composite recording of heart and respiratory rates could be obtained. Furthermore, these records reflected even slight somatic motor activity. No distress was noted among subjects, the electrodes being generally preened into the plumage or otherwise “ignored.” Recording was remote by virtue of small wire leads (#30 Alpha wire) which were run into another room. Prior to recording, a