

A nest of the Rufous-breasted Hermit with three eggs.—On 10 January 1968 I walked on a sand ridge between two swamps north of Paramaribo, Surinam, when I saw two Rufous-breasted Hermits (*Glaucis hirsuta*) in an aerial fight that ended with one bird hotly pursuing the other. I took no special notice of it as this is quite normal behavior among hummingbirds. A few hours later I passed the same place and at exactly the same spot I once more observed an aerial fight followed by a pursuit in front of a dense fern in the water. A better look with my field glasses revealed the presence of a nest woven in the usual way for this species to the underside of a drooping leaf of the fern (*Acrostichum aureum*) over the water. On wading toward the nest one bird tried to alight on it but was immediately chased away by another one. This happened once more before I reached the nest. To my surprise the nest contained three eggs instead of the normal clutch of two. I made the mistake of collecting the nest and eggs first, and so missed the opportunity to collect both birds.



Figure 1. Nest of Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsuta*) with three eggs.

Clearly this is not a case of a clutch of three eggs, but one of two females laying eggs in the same nest, one a normal clutch of two and the other a single egg. The eggs felt warm when touched. They were fresh and measured 15.3×8.8 mm (weight 0.65 g), 15.2×8.6 mm (weight 0.65 g), and 16.9×9.2 mm (weight 0.8 g). The two smallest were obviously the clutch of two and the largest the single egg. The quarrelsome nature of the birds, which clearly did not tolerate each other near the nest, might have prevented a normal incubation.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.