



Pinfeathers

A play & learn page for future Payne County Audubon Chapter members

oll about Bird Eggs

VOCABULARY

- OVIPAROUS DESCRIBES ANIMALS THAT LAY EGGS, WITH LITTLE OR NO OTHER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE MOTHER.
- OLOGY IS THE STUDY OR COLLECTING OF EGGS, ESPECIALLY BIRD EGGS.

SIZE VARIATION

- THE 3.3 POUND (1.5 KG) OSTRICH EGG IS THE LARGEST EGG KNOWN; THE BEE HUMMINGBIRD PRODUCES THE SMALLEST KNOWN BIRD EGG, WHICH WEIGHS ONLY HALF A GRAM, ABOUT ONE-THIRD AS MUCH AS A PENNY.

CLUTCH SIZE

- BIRD EGGS ARE LAID BY FEMALES AND INCUBATED FOR A TIME THAT VARIES ACCORDING TO THE SPECIES; A SINGLE YOUNG HATCHES FROM EACH EGG.
- AVERAGE CLUTCH SIZES RANGE FROM ONE (AS IN CONDORS) TO ABOUT 17 (GRAY PARTRIDGE) EGGS.
- SOME BIRDS, SUCH AS CHICKENS, LAY EGGS EVEN WHEN NOT FERTILIZED.

SHELL

- BIRD EGGSHELLS ARE DIFFERENT. FOR EXAMPLE, CORMORANT EGGS ARE ROUGH AND CHALKY, TINAMOU EGGS ARE SHINY, DUCK EGGS ARE OILY AND WATERPROOF, CASSOWARY EGGS ARE HEAVILY PITTED.
- TINY PORES IN BIRD EGGSHELLS ALLOW THE EMBRYO TO BREATHE. THE DOMESTIC HEN'S EGG HAS ABOUT 7500 PORES.

SHAPE

- MOST BIRD EGGS HAVE AN OVAL SHAPE, WITH ONE END ROUNDED AND THE OTHER MORE POINTED. THIS SHAPE RESULTS FROM THE EGG BEING FORCED THROUGH THE OVIDUCT. MUSCLES CONTRACT THE OVIDUCT BEHIND THE EGG, PUSHING IT FORWARD. BECAUSE THE EGG'S WALL IS STILL SHAPEABLE, THE POINTY END DEVELOPS AT THE BACK SIDE.
- CLIFF-NESTING BIRDS OFTEN HAVE HIGHLY TAPERED (POINTED) EGGS. THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO ROLL OFF THE CLIFF, TENDING INSTEAD TO ROLL AROUND IN A TIGHT CIRCLE. IN CONTRAST, MANY HOLE-NESTING BIRDS HAVE NEARLY SPHERICAL (ROUND) EGGS.

PREDATION

- MANY ANIMALS FEED ON EGGS. SOME PRINCIPAL PREDATORS INCLUDE RACCOONS, SKUNKS, MINK, RIVER AND SEA OTTERS, GULLS, CROWS, FOXES, WEASELS, AND SNAKES.

BROOD PARASITISM

- BROOD PARASITISM OCCURS IN BIRDS WHEN ONE SPECIES OF BIRD LAYS ITS EGGS IN THE NEST OF ANOTHER. IN SOME CASES, THE HOST'S EGGS ARE REMOVED OR EATEN BY THE FEMALE PARASITIC BIRD, OR EXPELLED BY HER CHICK. BROOD PARASITES INCLUDE THE COWBIRDS AND MANY OLD WORLD CUCKOOS.



MATCH THE TERMS ON THE RIGHT TO THEIR CORRECT DEFINITIONS BELOW. WRITE THE CORRECT NUMBERS ON THE BLANKS. THERE ARE MORE TERMS THAN DEFINITIONS, SO ALL NUMBERS WILL NOT BE USED. ANSWERS IN JUNE FEATHERS ON PAGE 8.

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| <p>___ A. HOLE OR VERY SMALL OPENING</p> <p>___ B. SMALL, BRILLIANTLY COLORED BIRD CAPABLE OF HOVERING; FEEDS PRIMARILY ON NECTAR; LAYS SMALLEST EGG KNOWN</p> <p>___ C. ROUND; SHAPED LIKE A BALL</p> <p>___ D. GROUP OF EGGS LAID TOGETHER</p> <p>___ E. BIRD THAT LAYS THE LARGEST EGG</p> <p>___ F. TO SIT ON OR HATCH EGGS OR TO COVER NESTLINGS FOR WARMTH</p> <p>___ G. TUBE THAT TRANSPORTS EGGS TO BE LAID</p> <p>___ H. TO KEEP EGGS WARM BY SITTING ON THEM SO THAT THE EMBRYOS INSIDE CAN DEVELOP AND HATCH</p> <p>___ I. WHEN ONE ORGANISM LIVES ON ANOTHER, SUCH AS WHEN A BIRD LAYS ITS EGG IN THE NEST OF ANOTHER AND THE HOST BIRD HATCHES AND FEEDS THE CHICK</p> <p>___ J. DESCRIBES ANIMALS THAT LAY EGGS, WITH LITTLE OR NO OTHER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE MOTHER</p> <p>___ K. ANIMAL THAT HUNTS, KILLS AND EATS OTHER ANIMALS AND THEIR EGGS</p> <p>___ L. THE STUDY OR COLLECTING OF EGGS, ESPECIALLY BIRD EGGS</p> | <p>1. BROOD</p> <p>2. CLUTCH</p> <p>3. EMU</p> <p>4. HUMMINGBIRD</p> <p>5. INCUBATE</p> <p>6. OOLOGY</p> <p>7. OSTRICH</p> <p>8. OVIPAROUS</p> <p>9. OVIDUCT</p> <p>10. PORES</p> <p>11. PREDATOR</p> <p>12. PARASITISM</p> <p>13. SPHERICAL</p> <p>14. SPORES</p> |
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