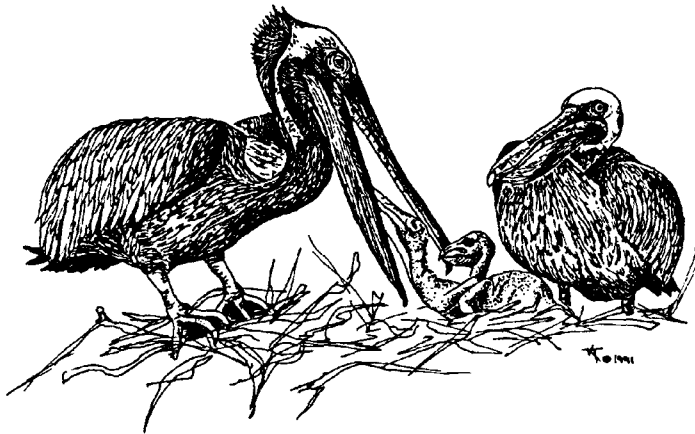


suggest that this animal ever cast his weary, sanguineous eyes over the black shoreline of Galápagos. The state of the body offers evidence that the creature had been dead for at least several weeks.

Note: Whilst defleshing the head, which luckily was largely clean, I was pleased to note a large number of endemic four-eyed blennies (*Dialommus fuscus*) skittering from rock to rock.

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## APPARENT POLLINATION OF *PORTULACA HOWELLI* BY RUDDY TURNSTONES (*ARENARIA INTERPRES* L.) ON ISLA PLAZA SUR

By: Francis E. Putz and Lisa C. Naughton

Bird pollination is a well-known phenomenon observed among a diverse range of birds including hummingbirds, blackbirds, sunbirds, and even woodpeckers. Within ecosystems with depauperate faunas, such as on isolated islands, plants may encounter a reduced set of potential pollinators. On 3 April 1991 we were surprised to observe Ruddy Turnstones visiting the large yellow flowers of *Portulaca howelli* in the *Sessuvium* dominated vegetation about 100 m from the shoreline on Isla Plaza Sur. More than 10 birds were observed visiting the flowers of this low-growing succulent. Each bird was observed to probe the usually single flower on a plant for 2 to 3 seconds, and then walk to the next plant and repeat the behavior. Each bird visited 12-15 flowers per minute during the

course of our 2-hour visit. Bright yellow pollen was visible on the beaks of the flower-visiting birds. There was no obvious nectar in the flowers we observed but about half had small (1-2 mm), dark-bodied insects, including small flies (Diptera) and beetles (Coleoptera). We suspect that the turnstones were attracted to the flowers because of the presence of insects, but whatever the reason for their behavior, they appeared to be functioning as effective pollinators. **Francis E. Putz, Department of Botany, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611,**