

BREEDING BIOLOGY OF THE 'IO

(BUTEO SOLITARIUS)*

Curtice R. Griffin and Peter W. C. Paton
School of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

'Io (Buteo solitarius) nest in a wide variety of habitats from lowland agricultural areas and exotic forests to upper elevational rain forests and pasturelands. The breeding season extends from March through September and most eggs are laid in April and May. Clutch size was never more than 1 egg, and of 23 nesting attempts during 1980 and 1981, 16 (70%) successfully fledged 1 young. Of the 7 nest failures, 3 resulted from egg abandonment, and chicks fell from 4 nests. No difference in nest success was found between nest sites in forests dominated by ohia (Metrosideros polymorpha) or ohia/koa (Acacia koa) overstory and nests located in forests dominated by exotic overstory, pastureland, or agricultural areas. Nor was nest success different at low versus high (above 1200m) elevation nest sites. Adult male 'Io assist with incubation and, in general, provide much of the food at the nest through the first 4 to 5 weeks of the 9-week nestling period. Small clutch size and extended nestling and fledgling periods of 'Io contrast sharply with their temperate zone equivalents.