

THE DOWNY YOUNG AND JUVENILE OF THE CHESTNUT RAIL, WITH NOTES ON DEVELOPMENT

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We describe the downy young and juvenile stages of the Chestnut Rail, a large, little-known rail of tropical mangrove forests, and provide notes on development. The information was obtained from four birds of two clutches hatched in the wild but raised in captivity. Young are precocial. Moulting from downy to juvenile plumage commences at about three weeks of age and is substantially complete by six weeks of age. Juveniles are separable from adults mainly or solely on the colour of the eyes, bill and legs, distinctions which disappear well before one year of age.