

about on the plains ; and from the large number of wasted eggs found it seems probable that more are dropped out of than in the nest. The egg when fresh is of a fine golden yellow, but this colour grows paler from day to day, and finally fades to a parchment-white.

After hatching the young are assiduously tended and watched over by the cock, and it is then dangerous to approach the Rhea on horseback, as the bird with neck stretched out horizontally and outspread wings charges suddenly, making so huge and grotesque a figure that the tamest horse becomes ungovernable with terror.

Eagles and the large Carrion Hawk are the enemies the Rhea most fears when the young are still small, and at the sight of one flying overhead he crouches down and utters a loud snorting cry, whereupon the scattered young birds run in the greatest terror to shelter themselves under his wings.

Darwin's Rhea, *Rhea darwini*, differs little in colouring from the Common Rhea, which it replaces south of the Rio Negro. From this river it ranges south to the Straits of Magellan. The Indians call it "*Molú Chueké*"—short or dwarf Chueké ; its Spanish name is "*Avestruz petizo*." They were formerly very abundant along the Rio Negro ; unhappily some years ago their feathers commanded a very high price ; Gauchos and Indians found that hunting the Ostrich was their most lucrative employment ; consequently these noble birds were slaughtered in such numbers that they have been