

November 15, 1934, George D. Macbeth, 1 Blue Goose; December 1, 1937, Howard S. Hadden, 1 Blue Goose.—**IVERS S. ADAMS, Hardwick, Massachusetts.**

An unusual Mallard's nest.—Although it is well known that Mallards often nest at 'some distance' from the water, the discovery of a nest located about three miles from the nearest water-supply is, to the writer, decidedly unusual. The difference in elevation between the nearest water and the nest is about 700 feet. At the time of discovery on April 7, 1941, the nest was accidentally destroyed by a tractor, but it contained four fertile eggs. It was located in a large brushfield some six miles from the town of Mount Shasta, Siskiyou County, California. The female was flushed from the nest at the time of discovery and has since been seen in the vicinity by the writer on several occasions and is unquestionably a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). During the spring of 1940 a female Mallard was seen by a competent observer in the same area and was possibly the same bird.

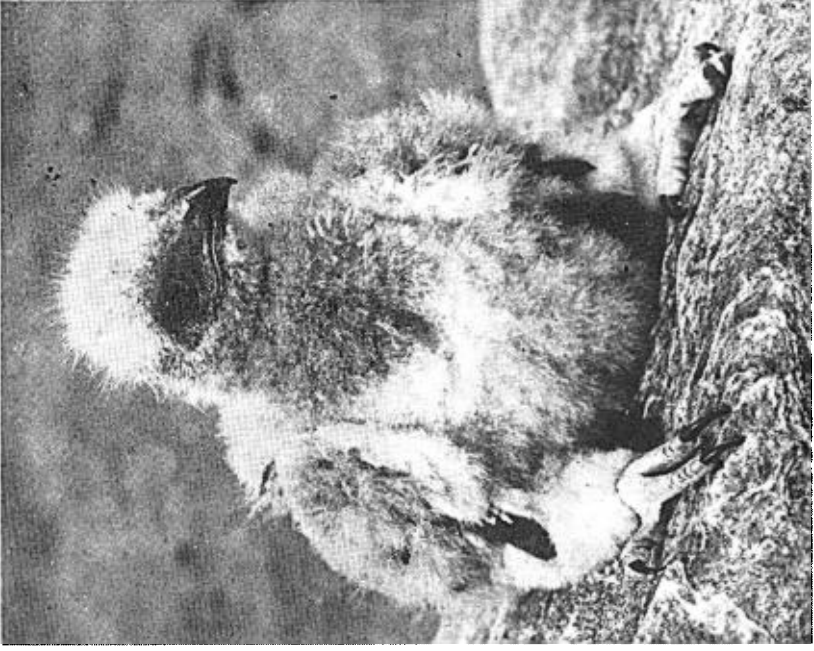
Mr. E. R. Kalmbach advises me that his experience with nesting ducks in North Dakota during the drought of 1934–35 leads him to believe that some of the birds there had to travel three miles or more in order to reach water. There, however, it would seem that the nest was originally set closer to the water and that it was left 'high and dry' as the water receded. Such was not the case in the Mount Shasta nest, as no water supply, except perhaps for runoff from a storm, was closer than the distance indicated.

The brushfield undoubtedly provides excellent cover, and a supply of insect food such as grasshoppers that would be ample to support the young for some time, but the method by which the young reach water is not known. It is difficult to understand how tiny ducklings could with safety traverse on foot a distance of over three miles on this rugged and rocky terrain.—**CLARENCE F. SMITH, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mount Shasta, California.**

Lesser Scaup Duck nesting at Churchill, Manitoba.—On June 21, 1941, we found a nest of the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*) containing ten eggs, located about four miles southeast of Churchill, Manitoba. The incubating female was killed in order to make positive identification. This bird and also the eggs were compared with a female and eggs of the Greater Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila*) which had been taken but two days previously, and identification of the Lesser Scaup Duck was positive. The nest was situated in dead grass at the edge of a small lake. When found no bird was seen, but on later examination the female was flushed from the nest. The nest contained no down, indicating that the set may not have been complete. The male bird was not seen.

So far as I am able to find, this is the first breeding record for this species in this locality and the only record we have for the species during the 1940 and 1941 seasons. In 'The Birds of Churchill' by P. A. Taverner and George M. Sutton it is stated that this bird probably breeds in the Churchill locality but no certain record is quoted.—**JOHN R. CRUTTENDEN, Quincy, Illinois.**

Turkey Vulture and Killdeer in Newfoundland Labrador.—Dr. E. P. Wheeler, 2nd, of Ithaca, New York, is one of those rare persons who, though not primarily biologists, nevertheless give much time and thought to biological matters. While carrying on geological studies in the Newfoundland Labrador during 1940–41, Dr. Wheeler came into possession of two remarkable bird specimens—a Killdeer, found dead by an Eskimo near Nain about November 25, 1940, and a Turkey Vulture, shot 'for a hawk' by a settler near the graveyard at Nain in the early part of the



SIBERIAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK'S NEST AND YOUNG

summer of 1941. Neither of these species is mentioned in Oliver L. Austin, Jr.'s, 'The Birds of Newfoundland Labrador' (Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, no. 7, 1932). Dr. Wheeler brought the specimens to me recently—the former in mummified condition, the latter skinned and stuffed. The Killdeer represents the large, continental North American race, *Charadrius v. vociferus* (wing, 164 mm.; tail, 94), the Turkey Vulture, the northern race, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis* (wing, 513; tail, 271). Both are now in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Bird Collection at Cornell University.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Siberian Rough-legged Hawk in northwestern Alaska.—A female Rough-legged Hawk, identified as *Buteo lagopus pallidus*, was collected by E. W. Nelson at St. Michael's, Alaska, on September 16, 1879; one was taken by J. W. Johnson along the "West Coast of Alaska" on April 10, 1886, and a male from St. Michael's was secured on April 10, 1876, by L. M. Turner (Friedmann, Condor, 36: 246, 1934). Nelson's bird was similar in color and size to the Asiatic form; Johnson's bird was intermediate in size but large like *pallidus*, while Turner's bird was colored similarly to *s. johannis* but was large like the Asiatic race. The author noted that a dark bird from Bering Island in the U. S. National Museum was large like *pallidus*, and he suggested that this specimen and Johnson's dark bird might indicate that in a region where the two races merge the size character remains more fixed than the coloration and is therefore a more reliable criterion.

Several Rough-legs from Alaska have come to hand in recent years; and in addition, I observed a few pairs and collected an adult male with three downy young (Plate 10) on Golovin Bay north of St. Michael's on July 26, 1921. The specimens from Golovin Bay were listed as *Archibuteo s. johannis* (Bailey, Condor, 28: 123, 1926).

Prompted by Friedmann's article, I re-examined the Alaskan specimens and was struck with the similarity of our birds to his. Two adult specimens from the Chicago Academy of Sciences and two from this museum were available as follows:

No.		Sex	Locality	Date	Wing
22614	C. M. N. H.	male	Golovin Bay	July 26, 1921	434 mm.
19522	C. M. N. H.	female	Chipp River (near Barrow)		445 mm.
4211	C. A. of S.	female	Romanof Mts.		450 mm.
6298	C. A. of S.	female	Colville River		448 mm.

The Romanof Mt. bird and the one from Chipp River are light-phase specimens with the dark belly a washed-out brown not observed in any of our Colorado birds. The back feathers are edged with light. The Colville River bird is as large as the others but is dark like *s. johannis* and would compare, probably, with the Bering Island specimen mentioned above. The breeding Rough-leg from Golovin Bay is in the dark phase, but has a light edging to the feathers not matched by any of our Colorado skins. The mate to this bird was not secured, but it was a very light one.

These four skins were sent to Dr. Friedmann with the request that he identify them, and he replied, "that three of the Alaskan birds, Chipp River, Romanof Mt. and Golovin Bay, are of the race *pallidus*. The birds from the Point Barrow region are somewhat intermediate between *pallidus* and *s. johannis*, as they are acquiring some dark dorsal feathers, but on the whole they seem nearer to the Asiatic form and are, therefore, identified as such."