

An upland Redhead nest.—On 11 June 1963 I flushed a female Redhead (*Aythya americana*) from a clutch of eight eggs in a dense clump of western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), 18 inches in height, near the edge of a large slough northeast of Wilkie, Saskatchewan. Since normal nesting sites of Redheads are over water in emergent marsh vegetation, this type of nest site would seem to be most unusual.

The nest was located above high water level on the lip of an old wave-cut bank, 8 inches in height, and was 17 or 18 inches above the existing water level and about five feet from the water's edge (Figure 1). It bore no resemblance to the elaborate struc-



Figure 1. Site of Redhead nest (indicated by stake) in *Symphoricarpos* cover near Wilkie, Saskatchewan.

tures normally built by Redheads in over-water sites and consisted merely of a well formed cup hollowed out in an abandoned ant hill and lined with white down and a few grass stems. All the down in the nest appeared to be that of the Redhead, and there was nothing to suggest that this bird had taken over a dabbling duck's nest as in the instance described by Weller (*Ecol. Monogr.*, 29: 333-365, 1959). On 26 June the nest was found destroyed by an unidentified predator.

The nesting of Redheads on dry land has been reported by Hochbaum (*The Canvasback on a prairie marsh*, Washington, D. C., Amer. Wildl. Inst., 1944; see p. 56) and Weller (*loc. cit.*). Hochbaum stated that "many Delta Redhead . . . nests are placed on dry land, sometimes as far as 400 or 500 yards from the nearest water." On the basis of his table 4 (p. 55), "Utilization of Nesting Cover by Delta Ducks," I assume that those nests were located in low meadowland sites subject to possible inundation in early spring. Weller's observations involved nests in emergent marsh vegetation left high and dry by receding waters. Low, on the other hand, in his study of the Redhead in Iowa (*Ecol. Monogr.*, 15: 35-69, 1945) recorded 160 nests, all of which were over water.—JOHN B. MILLAR, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.*