

Boyd Lake, whereas cattails and bulrushes were typical at the others. The supporting mats under the nests, usually green bulrushes, were often placed on submerged snags when these were available.

In exposed colonies the grebes often left the nests while I was still several hundred yards away. They swam well out into open water where they waited, calling noisily. Where the cover was denser, however, I managed to approach within ten feet of some incubating birds.

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF CLUTCH SIZES IN WESTERN GREBE NESTING COLONIES AT FOSSIL CREEK
RESERVOIR, COLORADO

Clutch size June 2, 1957		Clutch size June 8, 1958		Clutch size June 5, 1959	
Number of nests		Number of nests		Number of nests	
SW end		SW end—None SE end		SW end—None SE end	
1	12	1	10	1	6
2	7	2	9	2	16
3	1	3	19	3	49
4	1	4	32	4	54
Total	21	5	35	5	11
		6	10	6	1
		Total	115	Total	137
SE end					
0	2				
1	5				
3	1				
Total	8				

In 1960 the reservoirs around Fort Collins failed to reach capacity by two or three feet, and there was no nesting at the known sites as the water did not flood the cover. However, grebes lingered in small numbers, and I have no doubt that nesting will be re-established when conditions permit.—DONALD G. DAVIS, *Timnath, Colorado, December 15, 1960.*

The Flight Speed of a Red-breasted Merganser.—In the course of investigating the terrestrial avifauna of the Cape Thompson area of northern Alaska for the United States Atomic Energy Commission, several low aerial reconnaissance flights of the Kukpuk River (latitude 68° 22'N, longitude 166° 00'W) were made. On May 29, 1960, a flock of six Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*) was flushed from the river ahead of the airplane. The area in which this flock was flushed was bordered on the south by a sheer bluff, rising to about 30 feet, and on the north by a bank 4 feet high. The wind was blowing from the west at 20 miles per hour. At the time the ducks were flushed we were flying east up the river. When the ducks took flight, all the birds turned aside except one male which flew slightly below and ahead of the airplane. This bird with a burst of speed managed to keep his position in relation to the aircraft for about 1500 feet before finally losing ground and turning aside. The air speed of the airplane during the chase was 80 miles per hour. The 20 miles per hour wind from the west added to the 80 miles per hour air speed would give the bird a ground speed of 100 miles per hour.

Similar flights had been conducted several times before and although mergansers had been flushed, none behaved in such a manner that an air speed could be calculated.

Cooke (Flight Speed of Birds, U. S. Dept. Agr. Circ. 428, 1937) did not list the flight speed of the Red-breasted Merganser in her compilation of flight speeds. The fastest speed of a duck that she recorded was that of a Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) with a clocked speed from an airplane of 72± miles per hour.—MAX C. THOMPSON, *Arctic Health Research Center, Anchorage, Alaska, November 25, 1960.*

Notes on Bird Nests Found in a Desert Shrub Community Following Nuclear Detonations.—In the past three years I have conducted investigations in plant ecology at the United States Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, under A. E. C. Contract Num-