

**An Unusual Nest of the Ruddy Duck in Montana.**—On July 2, 1930, while checking up on the condition of about thirty nests previously found at Barnaby Lake, near Fortine, Montana, my brother and I were surprised to find nineteen eggs of the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*) in a nest described in my notes under date of June 15 as a newly-constructed, empty Coot nest. Held in place by a heavy growth of reeds in three feet of water, and built of reed stalks, the nest was very similar in shape, size, and construction to twenty-one Coot nests on the lake, and differed markedly from a nearby Ruddy Duck nest, in which ten eggs composed a complement. As only eighteen days, including both days of our visit, had elapsed since the nest had been empty, evidently more than one Ruddy Duck had contributed to this set of nineteen eggs in a nest presumably built by Coots.

The cup of the nest was seven inches in diameter at the rim, allowing room for a top layer of only ten of the typically large Ruddy Duck eggs. Eight eggs beneath these, where the diameter of the cavity was much less, formed, roughly, two more layers. Below these, one egg, pressed deep into the wet base of the nest, was half submerged in the warm water. Only by removing every one from the nest could the exact number of eggs be ascertained. After raising the bottom of the nest above water level by adding pieces of reeds, we replaced the eggs in the necessary three layers. But we agreed that it would be impossible for a duck to turn more than the top ten or twelve eggs without rolling some of them over the rim of the nest into the lake; and that the lowermost eggs would surely not hatch.

While at the lake on August 24, however, I saw nineteen young Ruddy Ducks, of uniform size, appearing to be about one-third grown, swimming in a group with one adult female. Because of the lowered level of the water, I was unable with a raft to reach the nest that had contained nineteen eggs, and could not be positive that it had produced the young ducks now seen swimming. But as the other four broods of young of this species observed at the lake during the season were all on the water before July 2, it seems quite certain that the deep-piled nineteen eggs laid by at least two Ruddy Ducks in a Coot nest were successfully hatched.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana*.

**Some 1929 Bird Notes from the Chicago Region.**—The artificial lake in the Mt. Forest preserve near Willow Springs is becoming a regularly established stopping place for waterfowl. On April 27, 1929, a flock of about thirty Double-crested Cormorants were on the lake, and were seen on several previous and subsequent visits. Other birds seen were loons, gulls, mergansers, and ducks of several species. Even an Osprey was seen on one visit. Until the making of this lake, cormorants were few and far between in the Chicago region.

An amusing instance of the fearlessness toward man on the part of some birds came to the writer's observation this year. On the morning of April 28 a Flicker was seen to chisel away vigorously at a small, three-foot-high poplar stump. The stump is only about ten feet away from the steps to the rear porch of the writer's home. For the next three or four days the bird made the chips fly in a most energetic manner, until the cavity in the stump seemed to reach down almost to the level of the ground. Later the young could be heard producing their characteristic noise, like a swarm of bees, particularly when one tapped on the rim at the entrance of the cavity. On May 28 they left the nest. No time lost there!