

of early ornithologists (Kennicott, Nelson, Ridgway), and specimens have been taken in neighboring states (southern Wisconsin and Indiana).—FRANK A. PITELKA, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.*

Lesser Scaup Duck Defending Nest.—That the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Mareca affinis*) is fearless in defense of its young has often been observed, but the incident related below, of an individual defending her nest, is unique in my experience.

On a small, wooded island in Ministik Lake, Alberta, on July 20, 1931, a Lesser Scaup was disturbed from her nest in a patch of sedges near the water's edge. The nest contained eight eggs. The bird did not fly but walked in a crouching attitude toward the water. After proceeding about ten feet, she turned about, walked back in the same manner and settled upon the eggs. Meanwhile, with a companion, I was standing within three feet or so of the nest. My companion then put out his hand which prompted the duck to again leave the nest, and, moving forward with wings outspread, grasp a finger with her bill.

We returned to the nest again an hour later and the same performance was repeated with variations a number of times. A sudden movement would impel her to leave the nest only to return immediately. Not once did she fly. Sometimes she picked at the sedges around the nest, or, standing upright, re-arranged the down. Usually upon settling, she turned her tail toward us and once after doing this, turned completely about and faced us. Finally at a time when the bird was relaxed on the eggs we drew together the sedges above the nest and left her in peace.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

Nesting Behavior of Kingbirds.—The writer's porch faces westward upon a row of elms, where on the evening of June 16, 1938, a pair of Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) were busy building a nest in a fork some twenty-five feet from the ground. It seemed but half completed and both birds were industriously bringing materials to be woven into it by the female. Several pieces of string were added, one of them so long that it became entangled in the surrounding twigs.

During an interval when both owners were away, an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) alighted at the nest and began tearing it to pieces with claws and bill. Hastily collecting the looser bits, she flew directly to a group of trees back of the house. Returning shortly, the female owner was greatly excited. She flitted off and on the nest, re-built and re-shaped it and then spent a time perched above it complaining shrilly. No sooner had she departed upon another collecting trip, however, than her white-breasted cousin returned, tore hurriedly at the nest, struggled with the entangling string and left with a bill full of materials by the same air-way as before. These raids were repeated until dusk, the owners sometimes surprising the thief and driving her off with furious attacks and great noise.

During the following day all was quiet, the Arkansas Kingbirds occupying the tree alone. Evening, however, saw the return of the trespasser and several severe battles ensued. Other species, especially Robins, mingled in the fray, apparently assisting the owners. A female Baltimore Oriole suddenly appeared to assist in repelling the invader, but when all had again quieted, she was seen tugging away at the long string, pulling and fluttering to carry it aloft, and in the absence of