

growing of rice seems to be its center of distribution. It should be noted that the lake, covering some two thousand acres, lies a mile or two away from the town bearing the name Eagle Lake. It is a paradise for ducks during the winter months no less than twenty species having been recorded there from time to time.

The local name for this duck is "Mexican Squealer," indicative of its source and note. Not many are to be seen in winter except when there is a succession of unusually mild days. About the middle of April, the first migrants begin to appear and within thirty days it is very common in the lake. While there are trees in abundance around the lake and plenty of them have hollows, I have never yet known one of these ducks to deposit its eggs in a hollow tree or to so much as alight on a tree. The nesting season is somewhat later than that of the Mottled Duck which is a constant resident about the lake. Many of the nests of the Tree Duck are placed on the levees out in the rice fields and there is not enough vegetation to conceal them until June. I have also found nests in the reeds and grasses on the so-called "floating islands" in the lake but most of them are built in the rice fields or near small ponds on the prairie. They are composed almost entirely of rushes and grasses with practically no downy lining.

In July and August when the rice is in "the milk," that is to say when the kernels are soft and juicy, this duck wreaks havoc in the rice fields. The plant is bent over by the weight of the bird's body and the "head" containing the grains completely nibbled off. When it is taken into account that a flock of a thousand or more may descend into a field in one night some idea may be gained of the heavy damage resulting. The largest numbers are to be seen in the late fall just before the southward migration. This is after the beginning of the shooting season and as the bird subsists almost entirely on rice, the flesh should be unusually palatable. Nevertheless it is rarely shot by sportsmen as it is not looked upon as a "gamey" quarry. Unwary, moving in flocks of hundreds, it is regarded as an unworthy target.—J. J. CARROLL, *Houston, Texas.*

The Black Duck in Oregon.—Because of the somewhat uncertain status of *Anas rubripes* in Oregon, it seems desirable to record a specimen of this species, banded at Lake Malheur, on November 14, 1930, by U. S. Reservation Protector George M. Benson. The bird was marked with Biological Survey band No. B601081. It has not yet been reported as a return.

Although there is a possibility that the bird was an "escape" from some zoological park or game farm on the Pacific coast, it is interesting to note that in 1887, George Law, in a glowing account of the game birds of Sauvie's Island, Oregon, which was published in *American Field*,¹ included the Black Duck as one of the species of waterfowl that might be found in November in the bag of a sportsman.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

¹ Vol. XXVIII, p. 174.