

to the Department of Biology of the College of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico. The bird, a beautiful male, is at present in the bird collection of the Department of Biology. The same day two other specimens were collected and reported by Professor Jenaro Maldonado who was making a bird census at the Anegado Lagoon. This bird is apparently a regular winter migrant to Puerto Rico, since several hunters claim they have collected specimens during previous seasons.—VIRGILIO BIAGGI, JR., *Department of Biology, College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.*

A Breeding Record for the Ring-necked Duck in Massachusetts.—Since 1938, several articles have appeared recounting breeding records for the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) in the Northeast. Mendall (Auk, 55: 401–404, 1938), Peters (Auk, 58: 401–402, 1941), and Squires (Auk, 63: 600, 1946) discussed breeding trends in Maine, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, respectively. The breeding population in New Brunswick is apparently one of quite long standing, but recent nesting in other northeastern areas is without historical precedent. While migrant Ring-necks have become increasingly common in Massachusetts, I have found no previous nesting records in New England south of Maine.

Observers of the spring migration through the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord, Massachusetts, have been aware of the tendency of a small number of Ring-necks to linger into May and June. Considerable interest was aroused in the possibility of a pair remaining to nest on or about the refuge. The event was, in fact, predicted by Griscom (Birds of Concord, 1949: 190). During April, 1951, as many as 40 Ring-necks were observed on the refuge impoundments, but only one pair remained after the first week in May. Their behavior was observed by David Grice. The apparent territorial behavior of the male and the repeated presence of the female in a particular section of the marsh led him to believe that a nesting attempt was being made, although his searches for the nest did not disclose it.

On the morning of May 22, the writer, using a Labrador Retriever dog, flushed the duck from the nest. It was situated on a semi-floating island of decayed plant material about five yards out from the hummocky zone which lines the shores of the impoundment. The nest was placed in a small grassy tussock shaded by a sparse buttonbush. The 12 olive-buff eggs were a scant two inches above the surface of the water. A sample of the down and breast feathers was removed and later identified as that of a Ring-necked Duck. Late in the afternoon, Joseph A. Hagar, State Ornithologist, accompanied the writer as the nest was reapproached by canoe. The duck was observed from a distance of less than ten feet, making positive visual confirmation of her identity possible.

On May 26, after several days of rain, the nest was found to contain only broken shells and membranes. In spite of the obscuring effects of the rain and the earliness of the season, it is believed that the clutch may have hatched successfully. While the brood has not been observed, few of the broods known to be hatched on the marsh are seen, owing to the density of the emergent vegetation present. Indeed, the nest itself could easily have gone undiscovered. Although it was located within 70 feet of a regularly visited Wood Duck box, and was in plain view of an observation tower less than 300 feet distant, the duck had kept her nest secret until scented by the dog. It seems altogether possible, therefore, that nests occurred here in previous years when Ring-necks were observed in late May and June.—EMERSON H. CHANDLER, *285 Webster St., Auburndale, Massachusetts.*