

Baldpate (*Mareca americana*) Nesting in Minnesota.—Dr. T. S. Roberts in the discussion of the Baldpate in his *Birds of Minnesota* states (page 233), "We have no record of the finding of a nest in Minnesota, but its occasional occurrence in pairs in the late spring and early summer suggests that probably it does breed rarely in the State."

Each spring numerous breeding pairs of Baldpates are seen on the Mud Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Holt, Minnesota. Brood counts for the past several years indicate considerable nesting in the extensive marshes; however, no nests have been found there to date.

A few pairs of Baldpates are seen on the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, East Lake, Minnesota, each nesting season, and two broods were observed in 1947 by former Manager Karl Kobes. On June 30, 1939, P. Knopp and R. L. Coppess, formerly of the Fish and Wildlife Service, saw a brood of ten. While making a nesting survey of a small island in Rice Lake on June 2, 1949, John Wege and I flushed a female Baldpate from a clutch of 10 eggs. Photos of the nest and eggs were taken during a return trip on June 5. On June 20, the female was still incubating, and slow-motion movies (in color) were taken of her flushing from the nest.

The island, which is less than two acres in area, is covered with a heavy growth of raspberries, nettles, grasses, and other herbaceous growth, and includes one small low area of cattails and sedges. Wild grapes are plentiful, and the vines climb into the small aspen trees which are scattered thinly over the area. Several large basswood trees on the east and south sides of the island furnish a nesting site for a colony of herons and Double-crested Cormorants.

The nest was situated under an old log, the end of which was about 20 inches off the ground. Owing to the heavy herbaceous growth and the presence of the log, it was very well concealed. The nest had been constructed about five steps from the water's edge along the west shore of the island. It was lined with a good supply of down, which protruded up and partially over the eggs on the edge of the clutch. The female apparently made no effort to cover the eggs before flushing.

A visit to the nest on July 13 revealed that 8 of the 10 eggs had hatched. One of the remaining eggs was addled, and the other contained a fully developed embryo, which had failed to hatch. These two eggs measured 1.44×2.09 and 1.45×2.10 inches. On this same day a brood of five downy Baldpates was observed about one-half mile north of the island. One of these was caught and examined closely as the female feigned injury near our boat.

On July 24, 1949, two broods of Baldpates were seen on Rice Lake. One female was accompanied by five downy young, apparently only a few days of age. One of these young was captured and the female observed very close at hand as she gave the typical protesting performance. The other brood, also five young, seen on the same date were nearly half grown and could skitter and dive with agility. The female was positively identified as she feigned injury near our boat. Both these broods were seen in rather open stands of bulrush within 300 yards of the shoreline.

One other brood of Baldpates was seen during the summer of 1949 on the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This brood of seven young, about half grown, was seen on Mandy Lake (Little Rice Lake) on July 2.—FRANK R. MARTIN, *Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, Foxholm, North Dakota.*

Unusual Behavior of a Golden Eagle in Southeastern New Mexico.—On January 29, 1954, when making an aerial census of antelope in eastern Chaves County, New Mexico, I observed an incident which may be of interest to students of bird behavior. While a count was being made from an elevation of 200 feet of a herd of 58 antelope, a Golden Eagle was noted flying parallel with, and about 300