

## UNUSUAL UPLAND NESTS OF THE RING-NECKED DUCK

JAMES O. EVRARD, BRUCE R. BACON, AND TIM R. GRUNEWALD

*Wetland Wildlife Research*  
*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*  
*Baldwin, Wisconsin 54002 USA*

**Abstract.**—Two nests of the Ring-necked Duck, found amid upland plant associations, are the first found away from aquatic vegetation.

### **RAROS ANIDAMIENTOS DE *AYTHYA COLLARIS* EN TIERRA FIRME**

**Sinopsis.**—Dos nidos de *Aythya collaris* encontrados en asociaciones de plantas en tierra firme, son los primeros que se informan lejos de vegetación acuática.

Ring-necked (*Aythya collaris*) Ducks normally nest in aquatic vegetation over or near water (Mendall, Univ. Maine Bull. 60, 1958; Moyle et al., Minn. Dep. Conserv. Tech. Bull. 8, 1964; Townsend, Canadian Field-Nat. 80:74–88, 1966). Wetland plant associations used for nesting were primarily wet sedge (*Carex* sp.), sedge-cattail (*Typha* sp.) and sedge-willow (*Salix* sp.).

As part of our research, we annually search 400 ha of grassy upland vegetation for duck nests, mainly Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). On 25 June 1984, we flushed a female Ring-necked Duck from a nest containing 9 eggs in a retired hayfield consisting primarily of timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and bluegrass (*Poa* sp.) on the Star Prairie Waterfowl Production Area, St. Croix County, Wisconsin. The nest was 14 m from the nearest water. Four eggs hatched on 23 July with the remaining eggs not hatching. On 25 July, we observed a female Ring-necked Duck with a brood of 4 ducklings on the wetland adjacent to the nest site.

On 28 June 1985, we flushed a female Ring-necked Duck from a nest containing 10 eggs in a hay field on the Bierbrauer Waterfowl Production Area 2.4 km east of the 1984 nest site. Nest material was oat (*Avena sativa*) straw from the previous year. Vegetation surrounding the nest was red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), white clover (*T. repens*), and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) with some timothy and hoary alyssum (*Alyssum alyssoides*). The nest was 275 m from the nearest water. The nest was later destroyed by a striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). To our knowledge, these two nests may be the first reported from upland hayfields.

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