

## FERRUGINOUS DUCK IN LATVIA: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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Eleven records of Ferruginous Duck have been reported to the Latvian Bird Rarities Committee to date. The first two were of shot birds from unknown localities in 1901 and 1928. The next seven records then fall within the period 1972-1978, including five nests found at Lake Engure (57°1'N 23°07'E) and two nests during a single year (1972). The last two records are from Lake Engure in 1992 and 1994 when a nest and a single bird were reported.

All nests were found during a long-term study of duck populations in which all duck nests were counted systematically.

Previously, Ferruginous Duck nests may have been overlooked as those of Tufted Ducks *Aythya fuligula*. All nests were in gull colonies on mats of floating vegetation, close to water and quite late in the season, (i.e. clutch initiation date ranging from 10 May to 24 May). Four nests were parasitized by other duck species, namely Tufted Duck and Pochard *A. ferina*. Four nests were successful, one abandoned and one depredated. Twenty nestlings and five females were ringed with only one subsequent recovery: a nestling ringed on 14 June 1972 was shot between 16 and 24 August 1972 less than 1km from the ringing site.



A pair of Ferruginous Duck resting on a Reed *Phr. australis* tuft. Photo: N. Petkov