

The **KINGBIRD**

Jamaica Bay Sanctuary Ducks: In early August, 1960, forty-eight young Redheads, five weeks old, were released at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary as part of a large-scale attempt to propagate this species which is down so in numbers.

The ducklings were released in the west pond, all having survived the trip downstate, and they jauntily swam off, glad to be restored to their natural element. The birds were brought to the sanctuary on the theory that they will return the following year to the place where they learned to fly. It is hoped that they will come back in the spring to nest. At any rate they are assured of a good food supply. The four prolific crops available are: widgeon grass, three-square, musk grass, and duck weed. To prove the value of a good available food supply together with shelter and protection, ducks nesting at Jamaica Bay sanctuary this past summer included the Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, and Ruddy. Common Gallinules and Coots also bred. Nesting Redheads would make an attractive addition.

While on the subject of ducks, I might mention an observation among Black Ducks of their taking in cold weather a food item not usually associated with their diet. Along the west pond's sandy upper stretches grow a fair number of sturdy rose bushes. These are abundantly loaded, late in the season, with large seed pods (or hips). Occasionally the Black Ducks would climb the slopes, reach up and feed upon the lower hips until their crops were full. I have seen no other species of duck do this. —**Herbert Johnson** (as told to John J. Elliott), Jamaica Bay Bird Sanctuary, Park Department, N. Channel Bridge, Broad Channel, Queens.

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