

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #70



Ruddy Duck

WATERFOWL

HABITAT & DIET

Native to North and South America. Found in freshwater habitats including lakes, ponds, and rivers. They are omnivores which means they eat plants and meat (insects, crustaceans, and mollusks.)

FUN FACT

Ruddy ducks are diving birds. This means they can dive under water for a period of time. They are also known for being clumsy on land, but agile on and in the water.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BRIGHT COLOR IN NATURE?

Last week, my family and I spent an entire day exploring and looking for birds. Have you ever spent a day looking for birds? It's amazing how many you can find right around where you live.

At one point, we stopped to look for birds in a wetland. There were several small ponds and a lot of tall reeds and cattails. It was a perfect bird habitat. We saw many birds we knew, including some that I rarely see and was very excited to spot. Right as we were getting ready to hop in the car and move along, I saw a duck-like bird with a bright blue bill. Have you ever seen a bird with a bright blue bill? I had not! I was immediately in awe. While watching the bird, my husband and I pulled up a bird ID app on our phones to help us figure out what we were seeing. It was a Ruddy duck, which is sometimes called a Blue-billed duck.

As my husband, our kids, and I watched the Ruddy duck, it kept tapping its blue bill against its chest, then speedily jetting across the water's surface. It was performing a mating display to attract females. I had never seen anything like this, and the bird seemed completely unaware of our presence. I felt honored to be watching such a wild scene and a beautiful bird going about its natural, God-given behavior.

Isn't it amazing that no matter how many times we venture out into God's wild and wonderful world, there are more creatures to discover?

What are some of your favorite colors to find in nature? Hebrews 11:3 says, "It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen." God not only created every creature, plant, and you—but He also invented all the colors splashed across creation, like the Ruddy duck's blue bill! The next time you see something brightly colored in nature, thank God for creating all the colors for us to enjoy.

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