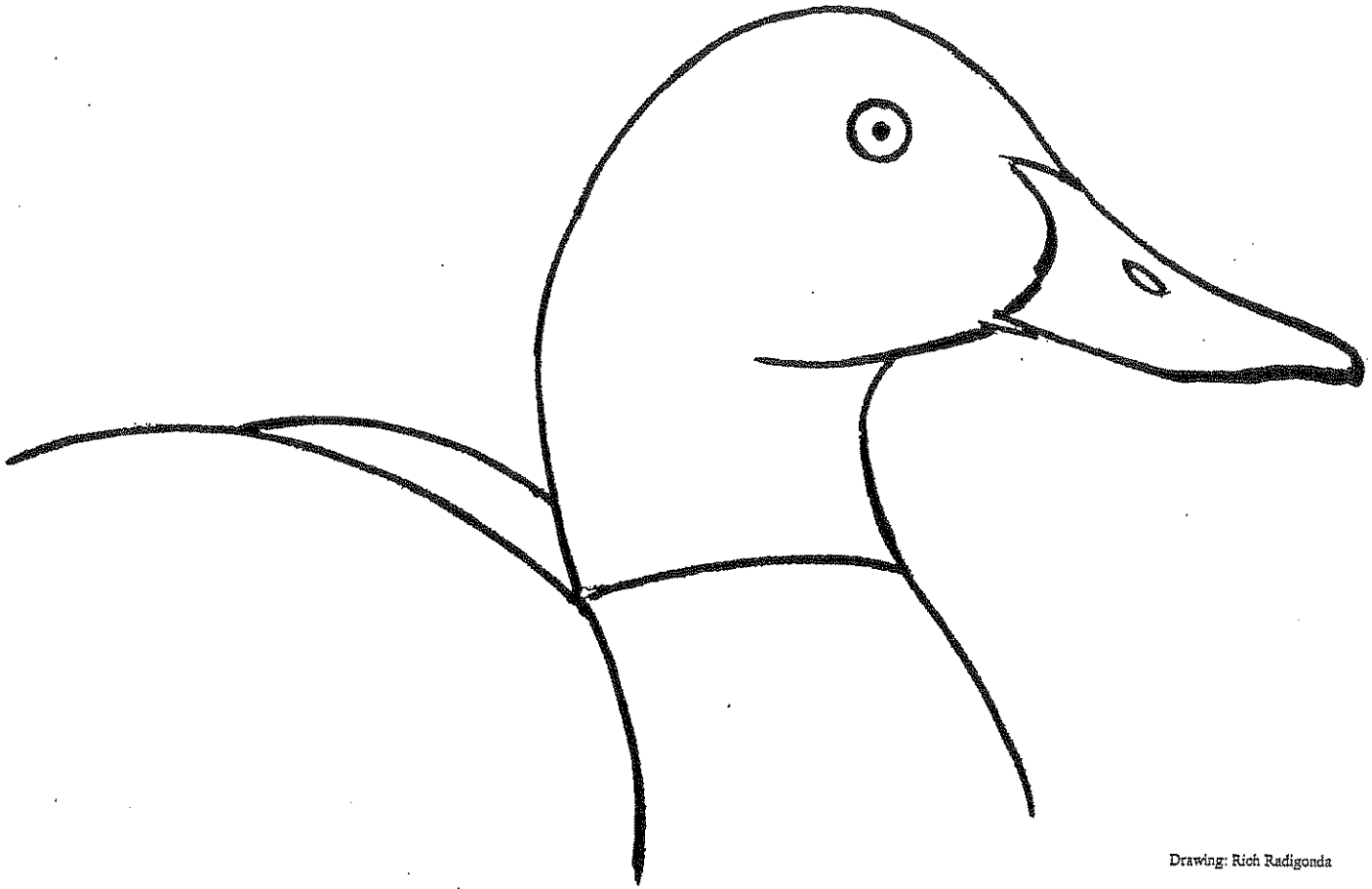


Drawing: Rich Radigonda

REDHEADS NEST OVER WATER...

Redheads are diving ducks, and many stay year-round in California. Like their name, the males have red heads. They are colored like canvasbacks, but redheads have rounded heads and smaller bills. Redheads migrate each spring. Some go north to northern California, Oregon, Washington, and southern Canada; others travel east over the Sierra Nevada mountains to nest in the Great Salt Lake Basin in Utah. Redheads usually build their nests over water in thick stands of plants. These birds are also parasitic (par-a-sit-ik) nesters, meaning they lay their eggs in the nests of other ducks. The young are then hatched and raised by other females.



Drawing: Rich Radigonda

CANVASBACKS ARE GRACEFUL...

Canvasbacks are graceful diving ducks. They have wedge-shaped heads that angle straight from the tip of the bill to the back of the head. Canvasbacks eat mostly underwater plants, but also feed on clams and insects. These ducks migrate to the prairies of Canada and Alaska to nest in the spring. In winter, canvasbacks are seen in large flocks of 50 to 200 on the open bays and lakes of California. Canvasbacks are the fastest flyers among the ducks. They have been clocked at 72 miles per hour (faster than cars drive on the freeway)!