

**RUDY THE RUDDY DUCK
MIGRATION MAYHEM**

by
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EXT. AIRSPACE OVER WATERLOO, IOWA - DAY

A pair of ducks fly high above broken clouds on a sunny morning. A flock of geese zoom by at a lower altitude, going the opposite direction.

RUDY (8), a Ruddy Duck with a prominent blue bill, flies on his back, hands locked behind his head. His legs are crossed. He takes giant backstrokes while whistling.

RUDY

Yeah, I'm heading down south. Oh, I'm heading back home. I'll be swimming all day long.

He holds a guitar pick in his bill while playing air guitar.

ROSIE (7), Rudy's wife, flies ahead of him. She holds a map of the USA that rustles in the wind.

ROSIE

This chaps my tail. You are supposed to be up here navigating, but you lay on your back whistling and acting like some kind of classic rock guitarist.

RUDY

I know what I'm doing. You're too tense. Just relax.

He flips his sunglasses down. He continues to play air guitar.

ROSIE

We're lost. Let's land soon so we can sleep for the night. We can regroup in the morning.

EXT. NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN ZOO - OSTRICH HABITAT - NIGHT

At sunset, the ducks land in a large animal enclosure. Water trickles from a galvanized stock pool. A caretaker tops off a feed chute.

ROSIE

Is the south supposed to be this cold?

RUDY

Cold? At least you're not missing half of the feathers on your back.

2.

ROSIE
I said I was sorry about that.

RUDY
I'm bald now.

INT. OSTRICH HABITAT BUILDING - NIGHT

SUPER STRETCH (44), an ostrich with a bright orange beak and blue eyes, mumbles as he sleeps in his enclosure.

SUPER STRETCH
Who is the fastest bird in the world? I'm
the fastest bird. Me.

EXT. OSTRICH HABITAT - NIGHT

Rudy waddles to the chute and rolls onto his back. He opens his bill wide. He tugs the string and feed pours into his mouth.

RUDY
Ah, that was a two-notcher.

He stands up and loosens his belt. He rubs his belly.

RUDY (CONT'D)
Look, a pool!

His eyes enlarge. Hearts float around his head. He positions himself for a standing sprint start.

ROSIE
Don't even think about it.

Rosie crosses her arms. She taps her right foot.

RUDY
Hey, watch this.

Rudy runs across the enclosure. He does a belly-flop into the pool. A tidal wave soaks Rosie, who shivers. Other animals peek over their enclosure walls.

ROSIE
You have jumped into your last kiddie
pool.

Rosie stomps her foot. She grabs the map and wallops Rudy in the head. Other animals chortle.

3.

RUDY

OUCH!

INT. OSTRICH HABITAT BUILDING - NIGHT

Super Stretch awakens. He stands up and spits on the ground. He strides to the enclosure gate.

SUPER STRETCH

What's all this ruckus? Who's out there?

EXT. OSTRICH HABITAT - NIGHT

The ducks run to the end of the enclosure. They hide behind a giant spotted egg.

ROSIE

I'm not sure what that was, but we better hide here until we know it's safe.

RUDY

Yeah. Look at this egg. What kind of madwoman lays something this large?

ROSIE

Meathead. Shut up and keep still.

INT. OSTRICH HABITAT BUILDING - NIGHT

Super Stretch opens his mouth wide. He bobs his head. A clap resonates when his beak strikes the fence.

SUPER STRETCH

It's too dark out. I'll deal with this in the morning. Time to go back to bed.

EXT. OSTRICH HABITAT - DAY

The sun rises. Fresh snow covers the ground. Icicles hang from Rosie's bill. Rooster crows wake her.

ROSIE

Rudy, where are you?

His rump protrudes from the center of a hay bail. His legs dangle. A slipper falls off his foot.

Rosie grabs his ankles and yanks him from the hay. He has a sock over his bill.

4.

RUDY

You just awoke me from a splendid dream.

ROSIE

And you left me sleeping out in the cold.
You have slippers and a sock to keep you
warm while I am covered in icicles.

Rudy pulls an extra sock from his bill.

RUDY

I am burning up. Take this extra one.

Rosie yanks it from his hand and throws it to the ground.

ROSIE

There shouldn't be any snow here in the
first place. Are you sure about your
directions?

RUDY

I admit, the snow is peculiar.

A sign in the distance reads, "Welcome to Northeastern
Wisconsin Zoo." Rosie puts her hands in front of her
bill.

ROSIE

Wisconsin? We are supposed to be in
Florida! You led me halfway across the
country in the wrong direction!

She yanks out the rest of the feathers from his backside.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

This is all your fault.

Rudy breaks free. He frowns at Rosie. His eyes fill with
tears.

RUDY

It is not. You're the one who hit me in
the head with a walnut when we were at
the lake. It ruined my navigational
skills.

Rosie collects her belongings.

ROSIE

You find your own way south, mister. I'm
leaving.

5.

INT. OSTRICH HABITAT BUILDING - DAY

Super Stretch awakes. He strides to the gate.

SUPER STRETCH

Hey you have some nerve trespassing.
You're going to be sorry. Check this out.
ROAR!

He strikes the gate with his left foot. It shatters.
Nearby animals hide.

EXT. OSTRICH HABITAT - DAY

Rudy grabs Rosie's arm. They hide behind the egg.

ROSIE

I can hear him getting closer.

Super Stretch charges at the ducks.

RUDY

It's go time!

Rudy hurls the egg through the air. It slams into Super Stretch's head. He lay on the ground covered in egg yolk.

RUDY (CONT'D)

Bull's eye!

ROSIE

Let's grab our things and get out of here.

RUDY

You mean, you're not leaving on your own?

ROSIE

Once again, you kept me safe. I think I'll keep you, for now.

RUDY

Right on. There is just one more thing I have to do.

Rudy plucks some ostrich feathers from Super Stretch. He affixes them to his backside with duct tape. The ducks grab their things and take off. Other animals wave goodbye as the ducks fly into the distance.