

This peculiar condition so far as I can ascertain does not exist on any of the other streams flowing from the mountains out onto the plains, and its cause can only be accurately ascertained by an exhaustive study of the vegetation, climate, and other conditions upon which faunal distribution depends.—R. B. ROCKWELL.]  
*Denver, Colorado.*

## NOTES FROM BUENA VISTA LAKE, MAY 20 TO JUNE 16, 1907

By C. B. LINTON

**B**UENA Vista Lake is about thirty miles southwest of Bakersfield, Kern County, California; it is twelve miles long by eight miles wide and very shallow. There is no vegetation along the southern and western shores excepting here and there a patch of salt or devil-grass; on the north for several miles is a stretch of alkaline desert with an occasional patch of mesquite and sage. At the northeast corner where the Kern River empties into the lake (and where is also the outlet, the mouth of the Kern River and the Lake outlet being separated only by a narrow levee) is found an abundant growth of tules and willows, the latter bordering the Kern River in dense thickets and groves for miles. About two and one-half miles from the lake, along the river, is quite an extensive marsh caused by the overflow of the river during the winter months. It is near this marsh and in the vicinity of the mouth of the river that all collecting was done, small canoes being used for transportation.

In the limited time at my disposal here, very little could be done, the field being a little too large for one man to work in so short a time.

***Aechmophorus occidentalis*.** Western Grebe. Common on the lake. Would undoubtedly have bred, had not the plume hunters been present.

***Podilymbus podiceps*.** Pied-billed Grebe. Fairly common in the lake and river marshes. Breeding.

***Larus californicus*.** California Gull. Several immature Gulls were seen about the lake, probably this species.

***Sterna caspia*.** Caspian Tern. Two seen. One secured, May 26, in Kern River marsh.

***Sterna forsteri*.** Forster Tern. Fairly common near breeding colony of Black Terns. None found breeding.

***Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*.** American Black Tern. Large colony nesting in river marsh.

***Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*.** Farallone Cormorant. Breeding in immense numbers in the partly submerged willow trees in the lake; two to six nests to the tree was the rule. Fully fledged young and fresh eggs were found in late May.

***Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*.** American White Pelican. Two large colonies were visited; one of about 250 nests, on a small sandy island in the river mouth; the other of perhaps 500 nests, on the lake shore. The nests of the latter colony were mostly well constructed of tules and marsh grass covering about two acres. The nests on the island were merely holes scooped in the sand.

***Nettion carolinense*.** Green-winged Teal. Several seen.

***Querquedula cyanoptera*.** Cinnamon Teal. Fairly common. Breeding. Fresh sets and young noted in late May.

**Dafila acuta.** Pintail. Fairly common. Breeding. Several broods just out of the nest noted. One fresh set of six eggs found June 2. One brood of 9 hatched June 4.

**Aythya americana.** Redhead. Reported breeding by market hunters.

**Erismatura jamaicensis.** Ruddy Duck. Several seen.

**Plegadis guarauna.** White-faced Glossy Ibis. One single bird seen May 25. Flock of about 75 seen flying over camp June 4.

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** American Bittern. Fairly common.

**Ardetta exilis.** Least Bittern. One seen.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Abundant. Colony nesting in sycamores, ten miles from lake.

**Ardea egretta.** Egret. Pair seen in river marsh, feeding.

**Ardea candidissima.** Snowy Heron. Seen flying over camp.

**Ardea virescens anthonyi.** Anthony Green Heron. Rare in May, becoming common by June 15. Reproductive organs showed nesting must have commenced in early June.

**Nycticorax nycticorax nævius.** Black-crowned Night Heron. Abundant. Nesting in thousands in the cormorant rookery, both herons and cormorants sometimes occupying the same tree.

**Porzana carolina.** Carolina Rail. One specimen secured.

**Fulica americana.** American Coot. Abundant. Breeding.

**Recurvirostra americana.** American Avocet. Fairly common. Several small colonies nesting on the lake shore.

**Himantopus mexicanus.** Black-necked Stilt. Thousands seen. Several colonies nesting on river and lake marshes.

**Pisobia minutilla.** Least Sandpiper. Two specimens secured June 4. They were feeding on small island with several Snowy Plovers.

**Actitis macularia.** Spotted Sandpiper. Several seen.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Ægialitis nivosa.** Snowy Plover. Several seen. One set of two fresh eggs found June 2, on a tiny island near lake shore. On this same island several sets of Avocets and one set of 6 fresh eggs of *Dafila acuta* were found.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** Mourning Dove. Fairly common.

**Gymnogyps californianus.** California Vulture. Reported breeding in the mountains near lake.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** Turkey Vulture. Occasionally seen.

**Circus hudsonius.** Marsh Hawk. Rare. Breeding.

**Buteo borealis calurus.** Western Red-tail. Several seen. One specimen secured.

**Buteo lineatus elegans.** Red-bellied Hawk. Fairly common in the willows along the river. One specimen secured.

**Falco sparverius phalœna.** Desert Sparrow Hawk. Several seen.

**Aluco pratincola.** American Barn Owl. Seen.

**Asio wilsonianus.** Long-eared Owl. One seen in dense mesquite near lake.

**Bubo virginianus pacificus.** Pacific Horned Owl. Often heard. One specimen secured.

**Speotyto conicularia hypogæa.** Burrowing Owl. Not common.

**Geococcyx californianus.** Road-runner. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Coccyzus americanus occidentalis.** California Cuckoo. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** Red-shafted Flicker. Common. Breeding.

**Dryobates nuttallii.** Nuttall Woodpecker. Common. Breeding. Fully fledged juveniles secured in late May.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** Arkansas Kingbird. Abundant. Breeding.

**Myiarchus cinerascens.** Ash-throated Flycatcher. Common. Breeding.

**Sayornis saya.** Say Phoebe. Several seen.

**Sayornis nigricans.** Black Phoebe. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Empidonax traillii.** Traill Flycatcher. Common. Breeding.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis.** Western Crow. Common. Breeds in the willows along Kern River.

**Molothrus** (sp.?) Cowbird. An egg of some variety of the cowbird was found in each of several Least Vireo nests secured.

**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.** Yellow-headed Blackbird. Fairly common.

**Agelaius tricolor.** Tricolored Blackbird. Colony breeding.

**Sturnella neglecta.** Western Meadow Lark. Common.

**Icterus bullocki.** Bullock Oriole. Abundant. Breeding.

**Euphagus cyanocephalus.** Brewer Blackbird. Observed.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch. Not common.

**Astragalinus psaltria.** Arkansas Goldfinch. Several seen.

**Passer domesticus.** English Sparrow. Common in the streets of Bakersfield.

**Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Western Lark Sparrow. Fairly common.

**Melospiza melodia heermanni.** Heerman Song Sparrow. Common. Breeding.

**Pipilo maculatus megalonyx.** Spurred Towhee. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Guiraca cærulea lazula.** Western Blue Grosbeak. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. Several seen.

**Tachycineta bicolor.** Tree Swallow. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Lanius ludovicianus gambeli.** California Shrike. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Vireo bellii pusillus.** Least Vireo. Common. Breeding in the willow thickets along the river. Fresh sets and young birds found June 1st.

**Dendroica æstiva brewsteri.** California Yellow Warbler. Common. Breeding.

**Icteria virens longicauda.** Long-tailed chat. Common. Breeding.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird. Not common.

**Toxostoma redivivum.** California Thrasher. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Thryomanes bewickii spilurus.** Vigors Wren. Fairly common. Breeding.

**Sialia mexicana occidentalis.** Western Bluebird. Common. Breeding.

*Long Beach, California.*

## A FAMILY OF YOUNG DUCK HAWKS

By JOSEPH DIXON

WITH TWO PHOTOS BY ANNIE M. ALEXANDER

ON June 16, 1907, we took three motherless, downy young Duck Hawks from their nest at Danger Point, near Killisnoo, Admiralty Island, Alaska. Even at this time they showed a noticeable difference in size. The largest one was just getting his eyes opened and began soon to take notice of the things going on about him. On June 19 the three weighed five and one-half, six and seven ounces.

The largest one was evidently from the first egg hatched and was always three