

these ponds appear as blue as ponds of water and they undoubtedly attract water fowl.

The smaller sandpipers, when migrating, fall prey to these traps in larger numbers than all other birds collectively. This is probably due to their habit of wading along the shallow margins of ponds in search of their food. I have seen ducks descend as if to alight in oil ponds, but they never do; they must be warned in time by odor or some non-attractive appearance the pond may have. The larger waders get their feet oiled up but not the plumage.

There is no remedy for this condition and the wild life will have to suffer its continuance as it does telegraph wires, light houses and the like.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Tulsa, Oklahoma, August 21, 1921.*

Least Tern Feeding Young on September 25.—All during the early part of September, 1921, Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) were still feeding young at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California. On September 25, one adult was still feeding a single young bird. The adult brought small fish at intervals of about twenty minutes to a flat in a lagoon where the young bird waited. At the approach of the parent the young bird uttered the characteristic *kit-tick*, opened its mouth and spread its wings. After feeding the young bird, the parent always dipped its bill two or three times in the lagoon as it flew off. Once the parent alighted in the lagoon and bathed. The young bird joined it, and both floated and splashed a moment or two.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, September 25, 1921.*

On the Occurrence of the Buffle-head at Eagle Lake.—The article by Mr. Dixon in the last CONDOR was read with particular interest because of the fact that we had

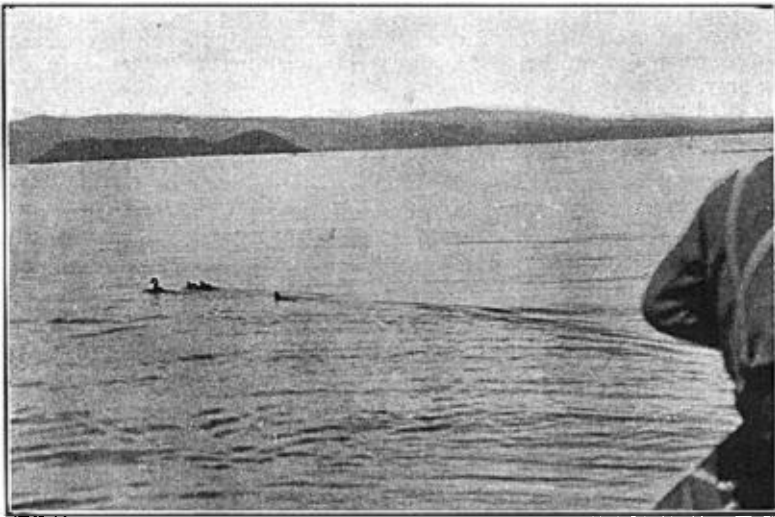


Fig. 32. IN PURSUIT OF THE BUFFLE-HEAD, WITH YOUNG, ON EAGLE LAKE, CALIFORNIA, MAY 27, 1921.

noted a pair of these ducks with young on the lake prior to Mr. Dixon's visit. Our party, consisting of Messrs. Jules Labarthe, Sr. and Jr., and the writer, after an extended collecting trip in northern California and southern Oregon, on our way south, encamped at the lake for a few days. May 27 (1921) was spent on a trip to the islands along the east shore of Eagle Lake. Here we found Farallon Cormorants with everything from newly built nests to those with half-grown young. The California Gulls, however, were

just beginning to lay, while in the great rookery of American White Pelicans we were surprised to find that every set of eggs (and there were scores) had been destroyed by some undetermined agency.

While rowing along the island shore we came upon a female *Charitonetta albeola* with eight small young. We realized the species had not hitherto been recorded from the state as a breeding bird, and knowing, too, that all records are best when backed by proof we started in immediate and, I fear, rather noisy pursuit in an endeavor to secure photographs. The best of these are shown herewith. In the excitement of the chase two of the juveniles became separated from the brood and some time later were discovered close to the island shore. Here, tireless efforts on the part of Jules, Jr. (for the speed with which they could swim and dive was a revelation) resulted in their capture and in their later posing, unwillingly, before the graflex.

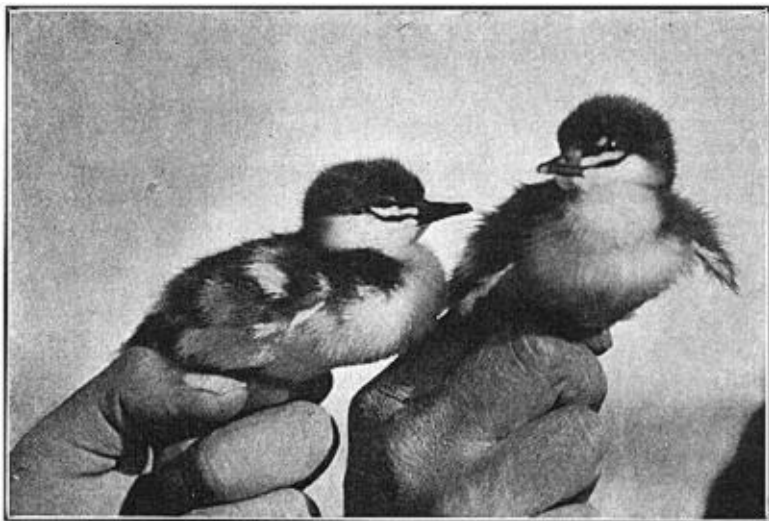


Fig. 33. YOUNG BUFFLE-HEAD DUCKS, CAPTURED BY JULES LABARTHE, JR., AT EAGLE LAKE, MAY 27, 1921.

Photo by Jules Labarthe, Sr.

Eventually the ducklings were released and with seeming joy and great speed they paddled to their parents (for the strikingly marked male, too, had now made his appearance); and in a small lake of the island (or neck of mainland, we never determined which) they then all cruised around contentedly after their most spirited adventure.

Later a storm arose on the lake, and the high waves rapidly filling our boat on the journey homeward we were forced to return to the isle. Here we were marooned, provisionless, for the rest of the day. Late in the evening we rowed back to our camp against a rough sea in pitchy darkness, an experience that was all too thrilling for pleasure.—MILTON S. RAY, *San Francisco, California, October 6, 1921.*

The Sabine Gull in Southern California.—I wish to report two Sabine Gulls (*Xema sabini*) seen at Anaheim Landing, August 30, 1921. Three members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mesdames C. H. Hall, A. J. Mix and F. T. Bicknell, at 11 a. m. saw what at a distance resembled a Bonaparte Gull on account of its dark head. The bird was alone and constantly preening its feathers. Moving forward quietly, the observers approached within thirty feet or less and studied the bird at leisure with binoculars for at least twenty minutes. They followed it slowly along the water's edge, trying several times, without frightening it, to put it to flight; but with a flight of a few feet, it would settle on the beach again. It seemed tired as from a long flight.

The slaty hood bordered at base with black, the dark gray mantle and black outer wing quills, with inner webs and tips white, were unmistakable; and its slightly forked tail, black feet and black bill tipped with yellow, were easily noted and identified the bird as still in summer plumage.