

## CONDITIONS AT BUENA VISTA LAKE

During the early part of September, Deputy Tipton Mathews of Wasco, California, visited Buena Vista Lake, in southwestern Kern County. At that time, ducks were dying very rapidly. Deputy Mathews, in walking from the shallower portions of the lake along a slough on the northeastern side, counted over 1500 dead ducks in less than one mile. In some places the dead almost touched one another. On October 9 the writer visited this spot. Few birds were then dying there, but the great mass of carcasses was simply appalling. The ac-



Fig. 77. SICK DUCKS REMOVED FROM BUENA VISTA LAKE AND PLACED ON FRESH WATER SOON RECUPERATED. THESE BIRDS WERE ENCLOSED BY PERPENDICULAR BANKS AND WIRE FENCING, THE FLIGHT FEATHERS OF ONE WING BEING CLIPPED TO PREVENT THE BIRDS FROM FLYING AWAY AS SOON AS WELL; PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OCTOBER 9, 1913.

companying photograph (fig. 76) does not nearly do justice to the situation. Ducks constituted the main portion of the remains; still, many cormorants, pelicans, etc., were represented. A number of sick birds were obtained and examined. Postmortem showed conditions similar to those of the Tulare Lake ducks. Samples of the water of Buena Vista are being analyzed.

It is hoped that by further experimentation the specific factor of the malady may be brought to light, and that it may prove expedient to effect means by which this great loss of birds may be greatly reduced, or even prevented.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Two Stragglers on the Oregon Coast.**—*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. Snow Bunting. On December 31, 1912, Mr. O. J. Murie collected one of these birds on the ocean beach at Netarts, Oregon. It was alone and no others were seen during ten days hunting in this vicinity.

*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*. Rock Wren. On December 27, 1912, Mr. Murie collected a Rock Wren where it was running about over the drift-wood on the beach at Netarts. This is the first record, to my knowledge, of this wren occurring on the coast of Oregon, and the record in midwinter makes it doubly interesting.

Mr. Murie has kindly allowed me to publish these notes.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon*.