

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.

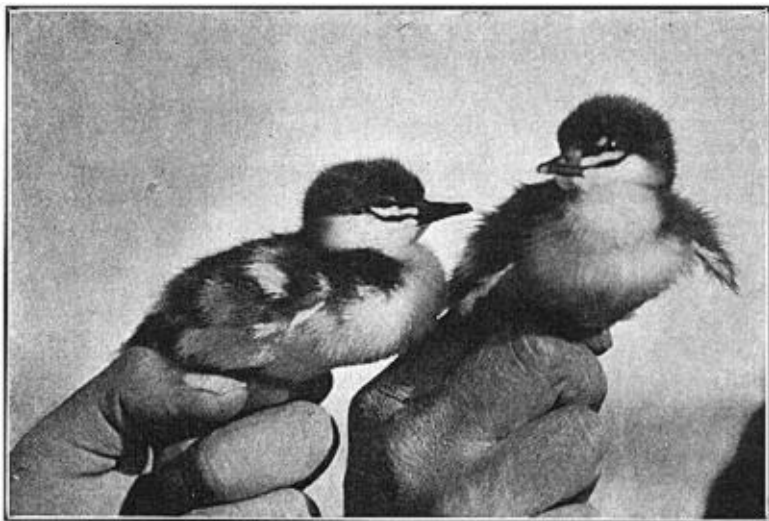


Fig. 33. YOUNG BUFFLE-HEAD DUCKS, CAPTURED BY JULES LABARTHE, JR., AT EAGLE LAKE, MAY 27, 1921.

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.

At 2 p. m. the same day, farther down the coast, between Anaheim Landing and Seal Beach, a second Sabine Gull was studied; it was in the winter plumage, only a remnant of the dusky hood on back of head and slaty ear coverts remaining. It, too, seemed worn with long flight, allowing the Audubonites to approach within fifty feet, where a good study was made. A Western Gull was patrolling the beach in lordly style and ordered the Sabine to "move on", emphasizing the command with ruffled plumage and open bill attacks. Neither of the Sabines were feeding.

This report was telephoned to Mr. L. E. Wyman, Ornithologist of the Los Angeles Museum, the same evening before any books were consulted and his questions were answered from notes made of the birds as studied first-hand in the field. He did not question the identification.—MRS. F. T. BICKNELL, *Los Angeles, California, September 1, 1921.*

The Gray Vireo in Los Angeles County, California.—On May 31, 1921, I discovered a Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) in Mint Canyon, twelve miles from Saugus, California. So far as I am able to learn, this species has not previously been recorded west of the Cajon Pass region, which is some fifty miles east of Saugus. The bird was not taken, but it was studied for three hours under favorable conditions. Only the one bird was seen, presumably the male, as it was in full song. It had established a station in the chamisal among typical "gray vireo conditions". From this station it was driven again and again only to return to the same point each time. Prolonged search failed to reveal the nest although it seemed certain that one must be located within a short distance. Identification was based upon song, the ashy gray color, and persistence in plant association all made more or less familiar through previous acquaintance in Arizona and in the Cajon Pass country.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, September 19, 1921.*

Eclipse Plumage of Cinnamon Teal.—On July 11, 1921, A. W. Anthony, H. C. Cleaves and I explored Cuyamaca Reservoir, a lake in the Cuyamaca Mountains, San Diego county, for material for a habitat group of grebes for the Natural History Museum of San Diego. A year previously I had found grebes breeding abundantly in the tule patches covering several acres at the east end of the lake. Last winter's rains were scanty here and the steady draft on the water of the reservoir had lowered the water so much that the tule patches were high and dry and the grebes had gone elsewhere, though we did see a brood or two, too large for our purpose.

Several broods of young ducks were present and I saw a group of three Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) that I thought were nearly grown and shot two of them. These proved to be adults in a stage of plumage new to me. On skinning them I found both to be males. They are in the "eclipse" plumage which is undescribed in any publication accessible to me here. Probably individuals will vary somewhat, as is the case with these two birds. No. 7455 may be described as follows:

Similar to the usual female plumage; crown and nape dark brown; sides of head, throat and neck a pepper-and-salt mixture of dull cinnamon and light gray speckled with blackish; back and rump as in the spring plumage except that the mottling is coarser and the light edgings to the feathers narrower; the wings and tail are not yet molted and perhaps would not show any changes; plumage of breast and lower surface similar to that of the female and immature male, the feathers being brown centrally, with lighter edgings; this edging is dull pale cinnamon on the breast, passing to light gray and dull white on the belly. There are a few small patches of the old cinnamon plumage on the sides. The lower surface of the other bird is still nearly half cinnamon colored. It had yellowish brown irises, while those of no. 7455 were red.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, August 17, 1921.*

Concerning Incubation on the Part of the Male Belted Kingfisher.*—In the volume entitled "Michigan Bird Life", by Professor Walter Barrows, published in 1912 by the Department of Zoology and Physiology of the Michigan Agricultural College, under the head of Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), on page 343, the statement is made that "The female alone incubates, but the male carries food to her at frequent intervals." This may have been taken from Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds", in which

*Contribution from the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences.