

any of the young ducks, and the record, giving the facts so far as available, was published (Condor, XXIII, 1921, p. 165). This account was followed by two other articles, the first by Milton S. Ray (Condor, XXIII, 1921, p. 192) and the second by Allan Brooks (Condor, XXIV, 1922, p. 25). As a result of these two later articles, considerable doubt arose as to whether the Buffle-head actually breeds in California.

Since it is desirable to back up all new state records with specimens, I took the opportunity to collect, at Eagle Lake, Lassen County, California, on June 30, 1925, a female Buffle-head together with her brood of four half-grown young. The duck and ducklings were first watched for some time in order to make sure that the ducklings belonged to the female and were not the young of some other species. These five specimens are now numbered 45960-64, inclusive, in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology where they may be examined by anyone interested.

Another family of Buffle-heads, consisting of a mother and six half-grown young, was observed the same day that the specimens were collected; so at least two pairs of Buffle-heads nested at Eagle Lake in 1925. In May I repeatedly found a female feeding with her mate in a certain secluded pond. Later, when the female was away most of the day, presumably on the nest, the male was seen daily in the accustomed place, where he was joined by the female for short periods during late afternoons. Particular watch was kept to see if the drake assisted in the care of the young, but all evidence was negative. I was unable to find any adult males after the young were out of the nest. They seemed to have suddenly abandoned the locality.

The downy young Buffle-heads, upon which feathers had just begun to appear, on wings and back, were taken as they fed with their mother in a shallow arm of the lake. At this place the water was choked with a dense growth of aquatic weeds and moss which in turn supported large numbers of water-boatmen, damsel-flies and other insects that inhabit shallow, quiet waters. It was obvious from watching the ducklings as they dove and swam rapidly about just under the surface that they were after live game.

Mr. Jean M. Linsdale, formerly of the University of Kansas, now at the University of California, has kindly identified the food remains found in the digestive tracts, as follows:

- No. 45964, ♀ ad.: Corixidae 40%, Zygoptera 40%, 12 unidentified seeds 10%, sand 10%.
- No. 45963, ♂ nat.: Corixidae 45%, Zygoptera 40%, 2 Annelid worms 5%, sand 10%.
- No. 45962, ♀ nat.: Corixidae 40%, Zygoptera 45%, Notonectidae 5%, sand 10%.
- No. 45961, ♂ nat.: Corixidae 45%, Zygoptera 45%, 1 Annelid worm (trace), sand 10%.
- No. 45960, ♂ nat.: Corixidae 45%, Zygoptera 45%, sand 10%.

Thus, stomach examinations show that over 90 per cent of the material eaten by these young Buffle-heads consisted of animal matter, chiefly water-boatmen and damselfly nymphs. As many as 25 of the latter were found in one stomach, while barely a trace of vegetation was found in any stomach.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 5, 1925.*

Male American Crossbill Feeds Female.—On July 14, 1925, at Beaver Marsh, Klamath County, Oregon, I observed an American Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) feeding what I supposed was a young bird. Both were on the ground. I shot both birds and found on skinning the supposed young bird that it was a female with an egg nearly ready to lay. The food consisted of ant larvae. It is common for males of a number of species to feed the females in the mating season; but I do not know whether the habit has been noted in the Crossbill.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, November 14, 1925.*