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### Tule Goose

In the Christmas census published in the January, 1934, issue of "The Gull" there was listed one Tule Goose observed on Metson Lake in Golden Gate Park. This particular individual was first reported there on November 4, 1933, and for several weeks following members of our Association made frequent visits to Metson Lake for further careful study of this goose. Some of our most expert observers finally agreed that it was positively a Tule Goose, and consequently when it was again seen at the time of the Christmas census it was so recorded.

However, it was reported that Mr. James Moffitt, Economic Biologist, Division of Fish and Game, had seen this goose and considered it to be merely a White-fronted Goose.

The Editor wrote him regarding his investigation and is now taking the liberty of printing the pertinent paragraphs of his reply, as well as a letter from Commander Henry E. Parmenter, who held the opposite opinion. These two views are presented here merely for the interest they hold for all those who observed the species in question and because it is just another instance where two experts in the same line cannot agree.

Mr. Moffitt's letter: "It is true that I told Mrs. Kibbe that I considered the goose which was on Metson Lake was the common white-fronted goose. Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, and I visited Metson Lake December 20, 1933, when we inspected this bird at close range and agreed it was a large individual of the common species. Neither of us could see any of the characters of the tule goose in this bird such as dark head, neck and back and large size. . . . I can assure you that I have seen more tule geese in the field than any man in the United States and I feel quite positive that the bird on Metson Lake was the common white-fronted goose."

"In regard to the yellow eye-ring which you mention, this character does not hold for the tule goose. It is true that some individuals have this character, but then again as many individuals lack it."

Commander Parmenter's letter: "Referring to Mr. James Moffitt's letter of recent date to you in reference to the goose which was on Metson Lake, seen first by you and Mr. Stephens on November 4, 1933, and by Mrs. Parmenter and myself from November 7, 1933, to and including January 3, 1934, the actual number of days the bird was observed by us was thirty."

"When first seen by us we thought perhaps it was from Stow Lake, where two White-fronted Geese have been here for some time, but such was not the case, and on enquiring of the man-in-charge at Stow Lake if the two there had nested the previous season and had young, we were told that such was not the case. At the Academy of Sciences no information as to the White-fronted Goose breeding in captivity seemed to be available. These facts made it plain to us that the goose in question was not bred in Golden Gate Park at Stow Lake."

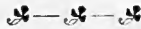
"In bulletin 130, U. S. National Museum, A. C. Bent states that the breeding range of the White-fronted Goose is 'nearly circumpolar . . .' while that of the Tule Goose is 'unknown.' 'It may fill in the gap in the known breeding range of *albifrons*, between the district of MacKenzie and Greenland, where much far northern land is unexplored.'

"The goose in question was a bird of the wild, as its primaries were not clipped. The bird became much less shy as the days went on; often we were not over seven or eight feet from him; in fact, one day he was on the paved road on the north side of the lake and I got him back to the lake as out in the road he was liable to get injured by passing vehicles."

"We saw him under most favorable conditions of light, position, time of day and in comparison with the two White-fronted Geese on Stow Lake, also seen under similar favorable conditions. We both have eight power binoculars. The naked skin at the edge of eyelid of the Metson Lake bird was yellowish, while that of the two on Stow Lake was brownish. This was compared several times and there is no mistake in this statement of facts. The top of head and the top ridge of the neck of the Metson bird was darker than other parts of the head and neck and was increasing so as the time of his stay lengthened. The white of the forehead at base of bill increased in whiteness during the continuance of his stay. The head and neck of the Stow Lake birds were uniform in color and showed no such variation as did the Metson Lake bird."

"From our mature and deliberate study of many days of the Metson and Stow Lake birds, we became convinced in our own minds that the Metson Lake bird fulfilled without doubt the description as given by Bent, as quoted by Swarth and Bryant in 1917 of the Tule Goose. It certainly was different from the Stow Lake birds."

"If the Metson bird had been taken and a proper study of the skin made by an expert, we would abide by such a verdict, but where the identification was made at only one observation, I do not accept the statement that the bird was the common White-fronted Goose."



**The March week-day trip** was taken on Wednesday, the 14th, to Tiburon by five members and one guest. Crossing the bay in a very heavy fog, it was not long after reaching our first stop for the day that the sun broke through the fog and the balance of the day was sunny and very warm.

This first stop was the lovely garden of Mr. Hugo D. Keil at Tiburon with its many beautiful trees and shrubs, both native and exotic, which together with many flowering shrubs and fruit blossoms is a haven for birds. Land birds seen were Quail; Anna and Allen Hummingbirds; Red-shafted Flicker; California and Willow Downy Woodpeckers; California Jay; Crow; Chickadee; Titmouse; Bush-tit; Wren-tit; Vigors Wren; Lutescent Warbler; English Sparrow; Purple Finch; Linnet; Pine Siskin; Spotted and Brown Towhees; Song Sparrow. The lake in the garden added the Mallard and Coot. These grounds being also situated on the bay, we observed the Farallon Cormorant; hundreds of Surf Scoters; two Spotted Sandpipers; Glaucous-winged, California and Western Gulls.

After leaving here, we visited Belvedere with its many beautiful gardens and then returned to San Francisco, adding to our list Great Blue Heron; Ruddy Duck; Kingfisher; House Wren; Audubon Warbler; Meadowlark; Brewer Black-bird; Junco; Golden-crowned and Nuttall Sparrows, making in all a list of thirty-nine species for the day.



**The March field trip** was taken on Sunday, the 11th. Twenty-nine members of the Audubon Association and eleven guests were present. It was a warm day and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the trip.

We left Sausalito about 9 a. m., followed the shore line as closely as possible, then through the gate to Fort Baker and from the fort, we took the trail over the hill, passing en route the Golden Gate Bridge in the course of construction. Buttercups, poppies, Johnny-jump-ups, lupines, etc., with the green grass of the hillsides as a background, furnished beautiful and varied color combinations which all enjoyed.

The most outstanding observation was the Duck Hawk seen upon the cliffs near the Golden Gate Bridge. It has been recorded only once before by Audubon on the Point Bonita trip, March 16, 1931. A lone Red-breasted Merganser identi-

fied on Rodeo Lagoon repaid those who circled that body of water on their return. Quite a number of Allen Hummingbirds were seen and several performed their aerial flights and dives for our benefit.

The following 53 species were identified, being the smallest number recorded from this locality since 1927, when 52 species were noted:

Red-throated Loon	Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eared Grebe	Glaucous-winged Gull	Pipit
Western Grebe	Western Gull	Lutescent Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	California Gull	Audubon Warbler
Farallon Cormorant	Murre	Meadowlark
Mallard	Anna Hummingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup Duck	Allen Hummingbird	Brewer Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Red-shafted Flicker	English Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Horned Lark	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Violet-green Swallow	Pine Siskin
Red-breasted Merganser	California Jay	Green-backed Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Raven	Spotted Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Crow	Brown Towhee
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bush-tit	Savannah Sparrow
Duck Hawk	Wren-tit	Junco
Sparrow Hawk	Bewick Wren	Nuttall Sparrow
California Quail	Robin	Song Sparrow
Coot	Western Bluebird	

Miss Christine Danz, visiting friends in Sausalito, went only a short distance with us, but after she turned back found a Lewis Woodpecker, a Varied Thrush and a flock of Cedar Waxwings, three species which we failed to discover.

Joseph J. Webb, historian.



**Birding** in cemeteries might not appeal to some, but they are natural sanctuaries for birds. Abounding in shrubs and flowers and little frequented by man, they are exceedingly attractive to birds for the shelter and nesting sites they afford.

Our fellow member Carl R. Smith visited Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco on the morning of February 2nd, observing twenty-four species listed below. The Robins were so numerous that he could not count them. A Flicker with yellow shafts was also observed.

California Quail 14	Bush-tit 30+	Purple Finch 31
Anna Hummingbird 6	Vigors Wren 1	House Finch 80+
California Woodpecker 6	Varied Thrush 60	Spotted Towhee 5
Lewis Woodpecker 1	Hermit Thrush 8	Fox Sparrow 3
Red-shafted Flicker 17	Robin	Junco 28+
Black Phoebe 4	Cedar Waxwing 250+	Golden-crowned Sparrow 11
California Jay 2	Audubon Warbler 20+	Nuttall Sparrow 20+
		Song Sparrow 16+



### A Bird-Lover Saves His Fruit

Here in Redlands a neighbor has a large persimmon tree which recently was covered with ripening fruit. As soon as these persimmons began to soften, a flock of Robins, several hundred Waxwings and a sprinkling of Sparrows proceeded to devour them.

The owner tried many ways to scare the birds away but without success. He then obtained two white rabbit skins and stuffed them to represent cats and fastened them just above a limb so the wind would move them. The leaves were gone and people driving by in their automobiles would stop and remark, "See those two cats after the birds." As the white objects could be plainly seen by the

birds, of course, they shied off from these scarecrows and most of the fruit was saved.

M. Hall McAllister, Redlands, California. January 20, 1934.



**Audubon Notes**

**April Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker for the evening, Dr. Carl D. Duncan, of the San Jose State Teachers College, will talk to us on "Insects."



**April Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members may take either No. 12 Mission Street car marked "Ocean" or Municipal car K, transferring to No. 12 car at Sloat Boulevard, getting off at entrance to Fleishhacker Playgrounds, where party will meet at 10 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Joseph J. Webb.



**Week Day Trip** will be taken on Tuesday, the 24th, to Alameda. Take 9:45 a. m. boat for Alameda Pier and train to Lincoln Avenue Station. All who can, come in automobiles so that Bay Farm Island may be visited. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.



**March Meeting:** The 200th regular meeting was held on March 8, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty-eight members and guests present.

President Webb gave a summary of what has been done thus far to have Lake Merced declared a bird sanctuary.

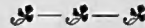
The following new members were elected: Mrs. Lester Snyder, of Berkeley, and Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, of Larkspur.

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly gave a most vivid and inspiring as well as instructive account of her bird migration experiences in the Middle West. The Mississippi Valley with the city of Minneapolis as a

starting point was chosen as the most desirable place.

Later two weeks were spent at Frontenac on Lake Pepin. Her special quest was waves of warbler migrations and she was not disappointed. Specially rare warblers came in small numbers. Tennessee and Nashville Warblers came in large flocks. Tree, Cliff, Barn and Rough-winged Swallows, Blackbirds, Flycatchers and Plovers were among the birds seen. With the arrival of the Wood Pewee, Canadian Warbler and Blackpoll the procession was over.

On May 15th, the largest daily list was made, ninety-two birds, including fifteen species of Warblers. The total list of birds was 167 species, of which twenty-four species were Warblers.



The following observations have been reported:

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly: Leona Heights, March 5th, Lutescent Warbler.

Eddie McClintock: Half Moon Bay, December 28th, American Scoter; Pedro Point, San Mateo County, Ancient Murrelet.

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter: San Andreas Lake, December 5th, male Hooded Merganser; Presidio, December 6th, Western Crow; Tomales Bay, January 22nd, Old Squaw; San Mateo Bridge, February 2nd, seven Long-billed Curlew; 23rd, Lake Merritt, two Barrow Golden-eyes.

Louie Rapp: west side of Angel Island, March 8th, four Black Brant.

Miss Werner: Golden Gate Park, February 13th, Allen Hummingbirds, and on March 6th, three on nests, two in Monterey pine and the other in a redwood tree.

**Audubon Association of the Pacific**

Organized January 25, 1917

**For the Study and the Protection of Birds**

President.....Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco  
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.