

As regards the Harlan Hawk, it seems that we differ in our view of this hawk largely because of our individually varying "memories", and, as indicated above, I am not convinced that I should forsake what my own memory tells me, especially as my written note book (my main reliance) is in accord with my remembrance of conditions. Brooks' statement that his adult specimen is "a very pale bird" is too astounding for further reply than this, that my original rough notes on the birds he left in my hands contains the following comment upon this skin: "Breast white, due to exposure of white bases of worn, black-tipped body-feathers. Plumage generally very worn. New body plumage is very dark (sooty)."

Finally, as regards *Lagopus*, *Astur*, *Buteo* and *Bubo*, I submit that my critic has not made his position clear. He criticizes my own disposition of these several birds but offers no alternatives. Concede, if need be, that I am entirely wrong, as is asserted. Then, in each case, what is the proper course to pursue?

Of the Scaups and Golden-eyes, I admit that, with such experience as I have had with these ducks, I am ordinarily unable to differentiate on sight between Greater and Lesser scaups, and (in the female and immature plumages) between the two Golden-eyes. In my own publications I would generally treat determination of all such birds seen in a region as dependent upon the identity of specimens collected.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 17, 1927.*

Rare Hybrid Goose Taken in Washington State.—While hunting geese back of Roosevelt, Klickitat County, Washington, on November 15, 1925, Mr. Jos. F. Coleman of Bickleton, a member of the Klickitat County Game Commission, shot an unusual goose which he gave to the writer to have mounted. After Wither Brothers, taxidermists of Spokane, had completed the work of mounting this bird I permitted Mr. J. L. Sloanaker of Spokane to ship it to the Museum of the University of California, Berkeley, California, for identification. Mr. H. S. Swarth of the said Museum later wrote to Mr. Sloanaker concerning this goose as follows:

I cannot help you much in regard to the goose. It is about the same size as the Hutchins Goose and looks as though it might possibly be a hybrid between that bird and the Black Brant. Whether it actually is the result of such a cross I can't say. It is apparently a young bird.

When the mounted goose had been returned to Spokane from Berkeley I submitted the specimen to the head office of the Bureau of Biological Survey in Washington, D. C., for identification, and after such identification, upon the request of the Biological Survey, the goose was donated to that institution for its collection. An official of the Bureau of Biological Survey wrote to me concerning the goose as follows:

The following is a scientific description of the hybrid goose which was transmitted by you to the Bureau for identification. The bird is apparently a hybrid between the Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) and Hutchins Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*).

Top of head, lores, and neck all around brownish black; back and scapulars fuscous, some of the feathers with dark centers and most of them with pale edgings; lower rump, and shorter tail-coverts chaetura black; longer and outer tail-coverts white, slightly flecked with brownish, forming a V-shaped white bar at the base of the tail; wing quills (except the base of the primaries), together with secondary wing coverts (except the upper greater coverts and primary coverts), chaetura drab, edged with light fuscous; bases of primaries, outer greater coverts and primary coverts dull, deep neutral gray; large patch on the side of the head, between drab and hair brown, anteriorly washed with buff; anterior portion of the lores and the region about the eye flecked with grayish white, forming almost a complete eye ring; center of chin and of throat brownish black, like the crown, but rather duller and lighter; breast and sides of body dull hair brown, spotted with dark hair brown, in some places inclining to fuscous, particularly on the sides of the body; abdomen brownish white; crissum pure white, anterior portion of thighs brownish white, the posterior portion hair brown.

This hybrid goose was shot by Mr. Coleman from out of a flock of about seventy-five wild geese flying over him. One other member of this same large flock, shot at the same time as Mr. Coleman's hybrid goose, proved to be a Hutchins Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*) and the remainder of the flock were taken to be of the same kind. The Hutchins Geese are very common and are to be found in large numbers at certain seasons of the year on the Columbia River islands in the region of Roosevelt, Washington.

Letters of inquiry concerning this specimen of hybrid goose have been received by me from Dr. Walter P. Taylor, biologist, Tucson, Arizona, and from Mr. J. D. Figgins, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, and the mount created considerable interest while it remained in my office at Spokane.—WEBSTER H. RANSOM, *Spokane, Washington, December 18, 1926.*