

ORNITHOLOGY

A NEW GULL FOR UTAH.

S. H. Goodwin.

Written for the Deseret Farmer.

The well known story of the crickets and the gulls, with its naive and interesting embellishments, and the positive service rendered by the several members of the family Laridae already within our borders, make the advent of another gull worthy of more than a passing notice. And the grace and exquisite beauty of the stranger give it an interest that is quite independent of that which attaches to other members of the genus.

I have called this "a new gull for Utah." If the bird does not belong in this category it is because record of its earlier appearance has escaped the notice, not only of the present writer, but that of other students of the bird life of Utah as well. The bird which is here given the distinction of being new to Utah is the Franklin Gull (*Larus franklinii*). But before giving the particulars of the taking of the first specimens of this species in the state, a brief reference to a curious situation in connection with the common Utah Gull (*Larus californicus*), may not be without value.

For some reason, not apparent, several writers have referred to the

gull which comes to us in such numbers in the spring, and not a few of which pass the winter with us, as the Franklin. A misplaced note on the habits of the California Gull in Bailey's "Handbook of Birds of the Western United States," may have been responsible, in part, for the error (For correction of the same by the present writer, and acknowledgement by Prof. Bailey, see "The Condor," Vol. 3, p. 99, and Vol. 7, p. 82). But that so careful an authority as Dr. A. K. Fisher, should be misled into naming the Utah bird the Franklin, is occasion for surprise. Quoting Dr. Fisher, and, apparently, without verifying the identification, Prof. Edward Howe Forbush—ornithologist to Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture—in his recently published and most valuable book, "Useful Birds and their Protection," connects the Franklin Gull with the destruction of the crickets in pioneer days. To make the incident more real to his readers, Prof. Forbush has inserted a picture (page 66) of the destruction of the crickets. The gulls of this picture are black-headed, every one, and some of them even show the distinctive white eyelids of *Franklinii*!! That ought to be convincing proof! But in spite of this, the fact remains that the Franklin Gull had not been taken in

Utah till the present season, or if taken earlier, not reported.

The circumstances connected with the taking of this bird are as follows. Two years ago the writer, in company with Dr. Ball, now Director of the Utah Experiment Station, and W. O. Knudson, of Brigham, spent the larger part of three days in the Bear River "slues"—the extensive marshes and numerous channels through which the waters of that river find their way into the Great Salt Lake. On that occasion a single black-headed gull was seen, but it was out of range before the gun could be brought into service, and it was called the Bonapart Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), as that species had been taken in the state. Several hours of that, our last day there, were spent in an attempt to find other black-headed gulls, but without success. The opportunity to pay another visit to that particular region did not present itself till the present season. On June 2, and again in company with Mr. Knudson, with headquarters at the Knudson clubhouse, the search for black-headed gulls was resumed. And into what a water-bird paradise we came. Everywhere about us were Grebes, and Gulls, and Terns, and Cormorants, and White Pelicans—great hosts of these huge creatures lined up along the shore of the small bay—and Ducks of ten or twelve species, and Geese with their trumpet-like, blood-stirring "honk, honk, honk," and White-faced Ibis, and Heron of three species, and Rail of two kinds, and Avocets and Stilts—with their meagerly built nests sown on the mud flats in the most reckless profusion—all of these and others, to say nothing of the swarms of Blackbirds of four kinds, and Wrens, and Yellowthroats and Swallows of five species, and many, many others. The bird man was fairly beside himself with delight. Our labors on the first day brought many returns, but not the bird we sought. On the following morning we set out early, picked up an additional boatman to aid in the search, and were soon hard at work. Rain came in sheets part of the time, but neither the birds nor the bird hunters minded it in the least. The forenoon had passed, the lunch had been disposed of, and we were just pushing our boats out into one of the shallow "slues," when the excited cry: "A black-headed gull!" brought two

gulls from the boats in double quick time and before the bird could get out of range, the true aim of the old duck hunter sent him whirling to the mud flat. As the writer picked up this beautiful bird—and the delicate rose tint of the body and white eyelids contrasting sharply with the soot-black head proclaimed it *franklinii*, not *philadelphia*—his pleasure may be imagined but not described. To make the acquaintance of a bird new to one, and at the same time add it to the bird life of a state, is an experience that does not occur often enough to become commonplace. The report of the gun brought other gulls about us, including some sixteen or eighteen of the Franklin; of these we secured six, and on the following day one—enough to establish the record beyond question.

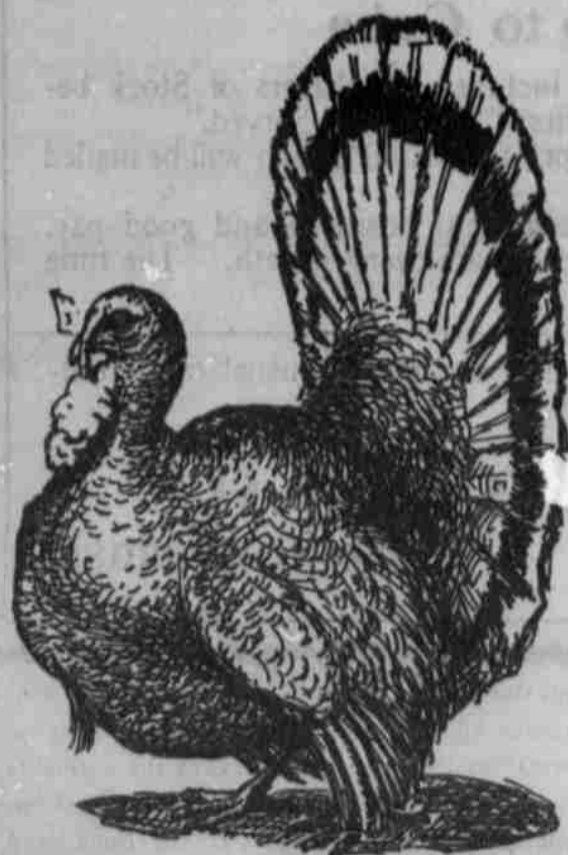
There have been not a few "red-letter days" in the bird experience of the writer, but none that has afforded greater pleasure than that upon which he beheld for the first time a Franklin Gull, and had the satisfaction of knowing that a new member had been added to the bird family of Utah.

BLACKHEAD IN TURKEYS.

Editor Deseret Farmer:—From the description given in the "Farm Paper" June 20, 1908, page 10, we have the blackhead among our turkeys. Can you give us any remedy that will check this terrible disease? About ten days ago we had 140 small turkeys that would average about two pounds each, and now we can't count 75.—WALTER ROBERTS, Monroe, Utah.

Answer by C. S. Gorline, Poultry Editor.

Your case is most urgent and only quick action will save balance of your poults. Put a teaspoonful of Calomel in a gallon of water, add a tablespoonful of Tincture of Aconite and clean up premises. Give no other drinking water than above. Feed boiled corn meal mixed with stiff sour milk curds, two parts or measures of the curds to one part of the corn meal. Sprinkle air slacked lime and ashes in and around roosting quarters. Perfect sanitary conditions and quick action alone may do some good. The disease is caused by filth and improper diet which results in fermentation in the crop causing indigestion resulting



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