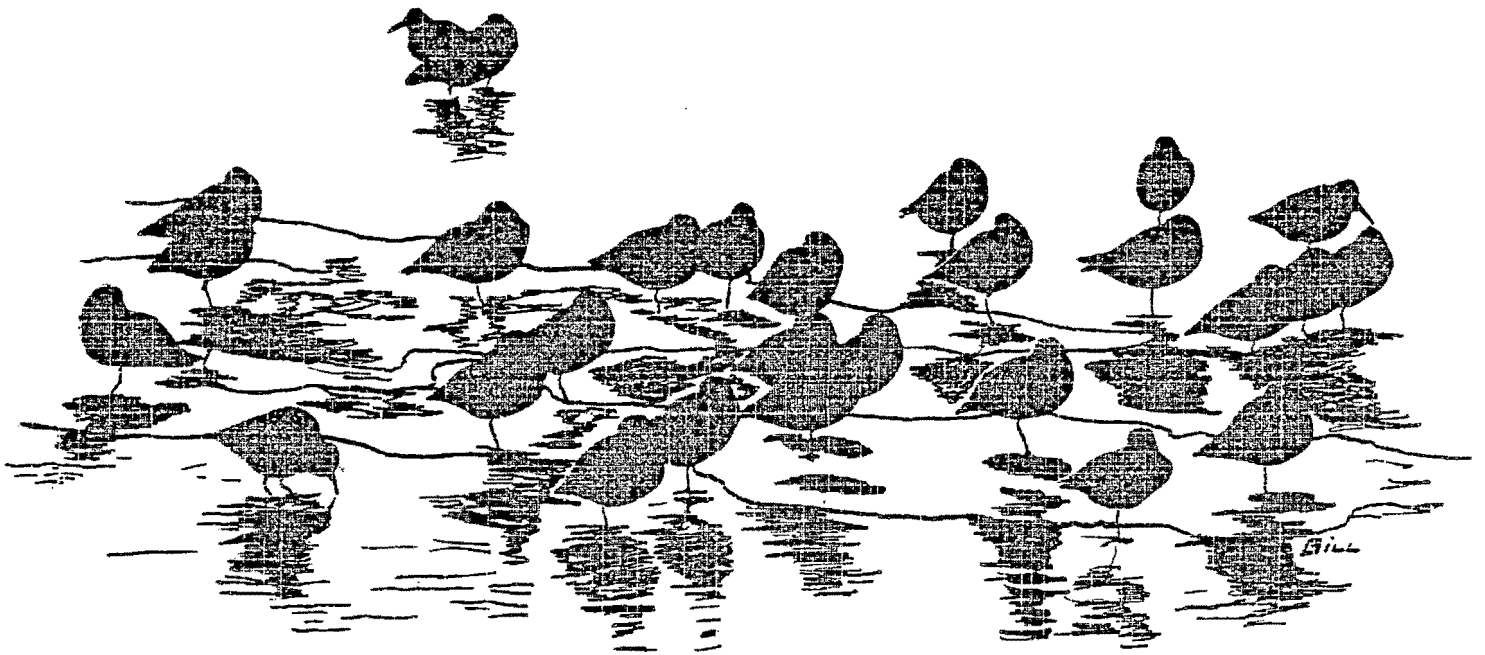


## STATUS REPORT OF TULE WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

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Abstract: Verification of upper Cook Inlet, Alaska as a nesting grounds for tule white-fronted geese (Anser albifrons gambelli), and of their existence as a bona fide subspecies, was recently obtained by comparisons of morphological criteria, the recognition of their nesting in geographical isolation, and distribution and behavior of marked birds throughout their range. Nesting has been documented only near Big River, Redoubt Bay and on western portions of Susitna Flats. Primary wintering areas are Sacramento and Delevon NWR's and the Grizzly Island State Management Area. Three of 258 reports of birds neck-collared in Alaska in 1980 were from the Central Flyway the remainder in western United States. Population size is estimated at 4,000 or more geese the size has approximately doubled since 1978, probably from reduced harvest in California. Discrepancies in surveys indicate unknown summering areas exist. Habitat is reasonably secure except for Redoubt Bay. Recent attempts to classify that area as State Refuge have failed, but the Alaska Department of Natural Resources will not allow additional oil and gas leasing on the area through 1983. Major management and research challenges include better assessment of population size and distribution, habitat protection, hunting, endangered species classification, and resolution of taxonomy.

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CONFERENCE



PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

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