

Heavy Metal

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Shifting cues delay migrations
a snowstorm pushes 3000
snow geese into Berkeley Pit's

anti-lake, "a 50 billion-gallon
toxic stew," to water and feed
and die. Flat surface below

ochre tiers curve and twist,
a poisonous tide surge
governed by no moon; the water,

unlike any other, beckons
birds, Siren trap that folds
their broad white wings, angelic

canaries in the open pit
remnant of the mines, yawning
maw that ate East Butte whose

wet gorge rises.