

Species: HUDSONIAN GODWIT (Vernacular Name) Limosa haemastica (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 8, 1976 Time Bird Seen: 6:19 A.M. to 6:21 A.M.-MDT  
Locality: Red Lion State Wildlife Area  
Nearest Town: Crook County: Logan

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
None		

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Bright, clear; air still. Sunlight directly on bird.

Distance from bird (how measured): 150 feet (estimated).

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Breeding adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

A large, uniformly dark shore bird wheeled into a small pond where about 25 Stilt Sandpipers were feeding on a mud flat. It stood erect at the edge of the water for about one minute as if trying to decide whether or not to join the others in feeding. It finally began probing in the water. A minute later it jumped into the air, wheeled around once over head and flew quickly off to the southwest.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Large, highly plumaged shore bird roughly the size of a Willet and twice the size of the Stilt Sandpipers. Long, slender, slightly up-turned bill which was dark on the lower half and light or flesh-colored on the basal half. Top of head dark brown. Prominent white eye-line extending from base of bill over the eye and into the ear area. Neck, chest and remainder of underparts were dark chestnut with horizontal dark brown barring. Nape and back dark brown. Upper wings dark (blackish) with prominent light wing stripe, widest at the primaries. Under wings blackish. Rump white. Tail black. Legs grayish-green. Eye dark. The wing stripe, rump and tail pattern and dark under wings were most noticeable when the bird circled overhead.



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

A flight call: a whistled note "gawit" was uttered when the bird sailed in and again as it left and circled overhead.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Alkali ponds in open grassy meadow with a scattering of last year's cattails.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Marbled Godwit: Much larger. Uniformly buffy-brown, mottled throughout. Wing linings are cinnamon, not black. Lacks prominent wing stripe of Hudsonian Godwit. Has brown tail and rump.

Curlews: Bills turn downward. Lack tail pattern of Hudsonian Godwit.

Bar-tailed Godwit: Underparts lack horizontal barring. Rump and tail white barred with black. Whitish wing linings.

Black-tailed Godwit: Similar to Hudsonian Godwit, but wing linings are whitish.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen Hudsonian Godwits several times (all in August) on Long Island, New York. Seen in good numbers in Texas in the Spring during three trips there in the past five years. Have seen twice before in Colorado - once at the Mile High Duck Club in May and a Fall record at Prewitt Reservoir which was photographed.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Standard Field Guide supported observation.

This report was written from notes made during X after        observation; from memory       

PRINT NAME: Jack Reddall SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: May 15, 1976

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