

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 28 May 1977Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: BreedingLocality: Red Lion State Wildlife Area Elevation: about 4000 ft.?Nearest town: Crook County: LoganTime(s) observed: Late afternoonDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) Continuously for 45-60 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Steve Larson
Bill Lybarger
Barry Knapp

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Excellent, with bright afternoon sun shining on bird from directly behind the observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 15-60X Zoom telescopeDistance, and how measured: Minimum estimated distance-about 50 ft.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Observed feeding, preening and in flight along the edge of a small marshy pond.
It foraged by wading into the water up to its belly, then submerging its head and probing the bottom in "sewing-machine" fashion. Several times we flushed the bird into flight, and it never went far, but soon returned to the shoreline. Seen in company with Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes, Stilt and White-rumped Sandpipers.

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

A large shorebird with long legs, long neck, small head and long bill. Bill rather long and upturned, the basal half pinkish and the distal half black. Legs blue-gray. Eye black. Head brownish with prominent white superciliary stripe. Underparts dark, rich rusty-brown. Upperparts brown with black markings creating a beautiful scaly pattern. In flight, the wings had a single white wing-stripe and black under-wing linings. Also noticeable in flight was the white white and base of the tail, with the distal two-thirds of the tail black.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Small, man-made marshy pond in open marshy meadows on a river plain.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The large size, and long, somewhat upturned bill eliminates all possibilities except godwits. Marbled Godwit-Larger in size, with an even longer bill that is even more noticeably upturned. Very different in plumage-buffy-tan, marbled, with no contrasting rump and tail pattern, no wingstripe, cinnamon wing-linings. Bar-tailed Godwit-main difference is whitish tail with dark bars. Lighter in breeding plumage. Black-tailed Godwit-quite similar, but has white (instead of black) wing-linings.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen Marbled Godwits on numerous occasions in Colorado and California. This is my first observation of the Hudsonian Godwit. I have never seen Bar-tailed or Black-tailed Godwits.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

None needed. All observers had no doubt as to the identity of the bird we were seeing.

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation:

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

Date and time report was written: 29 January 1978

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews

Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
CITY PARK
DENVER, COLORADO 80205