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Hugh, Thanks a lot for the records. Reading the great reports other people send in has made me truly ashamed of my own reporting. I feel like repenting. On the hand I've been up all night to finish my CFO report- after spending a week agonizing over it. Well, the Foothills club and DFO have most of my spring records, anyway. I'd just like to say wasn't it a fantastic spring for shorebirds? I saw 28 species in Colorado! It seemed like the number of Red-Necked Phalaropes was up considerably, also Willets, Whimbrels, Spotted (there were over 100 in one stretch of the north shore of Bonny on 5/12), Silt, and White-Rumped Sandpipers. Can you believe 38 Knots at Union on 5/16- AMAZING!! In spite of all the reports to the contrary on the rare bird alert, I am 95% sure that the Hudsonian Godwit was only at Nelson Res. 2 days-5/24&25. Am Inclosing some pictures for the records committee

The bird was identified as a Godwit by its size in relation to a Willet and Avocets in the area and by the upward curved bill. When first spotted it was feeding about 200 feet away and a 40 power scope was focused on it. The color did not look right for a Marbled Godwit as it was fairly dark and had none of the warm cinnamon brown tones characteristic of that species. The bird then flew across the lake and we could easily see the broad black band on the end on the white tail, the white wing bars and dark underwings that clinched the identification. I believe the bird was at Nelson Reservoir only on 5/24 and 5/25/86. The bird was easily found those 2 days by several birders from Lyons, Longmont, and Ft. Collins area. A thorough search the morning and afternoon of 5/27, 5/28, and 5/29 by myself and on several days by Ann Means of Loveland could not locate the bird again.

Bill Prather

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Hudsonian Godwit - *limosa haemastica*

Date May 25 1986 . I saw it twice this day at about 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. I went back Monday morning May 26. Bill Brockner was also at Nelson Reservoir then. ~~We~~ did not see the bird.

I observed the bird for at least a half hour each time.

Number of birds seen - one

Bird was still in winter plumage.

Locality - Nelson Reservoir, northeast of Loveland - about 15 miles from Loveland. I think this reservoir is in Weld County.

Optical Equipment - Swift - Audubon. Mark II. 8x5x44 and Bausch & Lomb Zoom 60

No pictures taken

Light Conditions - at 1 o'clock ^{p.m.} (when I first saw the bird) it was very ^{Sunny} bright. The sun was almost directly over me and the heat waves made it difficult to see real clearly. — but when I returned at 3:30 p.m. the same day, May 25, the Hudsonian Godwit was still in almost the exact spot I had seen the bird at 1 o'clock p.m. The sun was at my back (west of me) and I was looking toward the east

where the bird was standing in the water, belly deep.

Distance from bird - ^{around} 50 yards - I am not good at estimating distances. Could see the bird with my naked eye — quite well with my binoculars, but was able to see all the details with my scope —

Describe habitat - farm pond - surrounded by low grass. Just a few trees to the north of the pond at quite a distance.

Bird's behavior - The Hudsonian Godwit was standing belly deep in the water. The bird was feeding almost all of the time I observed it. Sometimes it would raise its head and look around and walk in a stately slow manner just a short distance.

Observers - Bill Prather who called and told me about the bird. had seen the H. Godwit on Saturday, May 24 when he was leading a field trip for D.F.O. (I thought that is what he said maybe it was some other group)

Kevin Cook,

Mary & Roy Griest

There were others from Ft. Collins.

I called Ft Collins people as well as Loveland, Longmont, Lyons not many home because of holiday weekend

Bird's call Didn't hear any

Description of bird -

The first thing I saw when I stopped my car west of Nelson Res was this one rather large bird standing in the water. With my naked eye it appeared fuller in the body than the many avocets on the reservoir. I could see the long upturned bill. The overall color was rather drab. When I put my binoculars to my eyes, the bird obliged by spreading the wings and I could see the black band on the end of the tail and the white ~~band~~ above it. The bill was reddish orange toward the base and darker at the point.

I put up my scope to observe the bird. There was no heavy barring on the sides - There was a white heavy line ^{above each} eye. The overall color of the bird was ^{brownish} grayish - It was not a dark chestnut. Dark legs. Very slight mottling on the back.

Similar species - Marbled Godwit - Marbled is much larger - Doesn't have black band at end of tail and white above

Written after observation

Had never seen an Hudsonian Godwit before -
Ann Means