

## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 5/29/86 Time Bird Seen: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Locality: Highline Lake

Loma Mesa CO

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars & 20 power telescope (Nikon)  
2x converted on a 500mm lens

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 500mm Nikon mirror lens

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Breeding adult

Light conditions: Good

Distance from bird, and how measured: 70 ft - focal length of camera

Describe the bird's overall behavior: The bird walk along mud flat probing and feeding; Sometimes in the water and sometimes on shore. When I first saw him he was all muddy around his head but later took a bath to clean up.  
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Shore line of the lake where a large mud flat is exposed

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

No-one

Hrs. probing  
Sometimes  
put his  
head in  
the mud.

## APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

When I first saw the bird I thought I had a marbled godwit. When I put the scope on him something just looked different. Also this bird seemed somewhat smaller. Its legs were all muddy so I had no color to go on. I started thinking maybe I had a greater yellow legs with muddy legs. After the bird did some wading and the mud came off I decided it could not be a —

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery—i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The only call I heard was when some gulls came over and the bird left. I was not sure the gulls made the sound or it was the godwit.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-tailed Godwit - white axillaries and wing lining

Marbled Godwit - larger - lacks wing stripe - contrasting

Bar-tailed Godwit - barred tail

Greater yellow legs - yellow legs

Willet - too small of a bill

Prior experience with this and similar species:

The willet & yellow legs & marbled Godwit all are common migrants here. I readily I.D. them.

I have never had any contact with the other godwits.

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

Name (print) :

Coen Dexter

Mailing address:

560 29th Rd #208

Grand Jct, CO 81504

Signature:

Coen Dexter

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

greater yellow legs because the legs were dark. About then the bird raised its wings and the axillars were black. My confusion then led me to believe I had a willet. That soon was ruled out because the bill was just too long and pink orange at the base and also recurved. I got excited about here and grabbed my camera. When the bird flushed after a few pictures I noticed a large black band on the tail with a white rump patch. Going to the guide books I knew what I had. Later I took many more pictures and got one with the black and white showing on the tail. Never did get a picture of black axillars and wing linings or white wing stripe but did see them clearly on several occasions. The under parts were barred and gray, rufous. There was a narrow white eye brow, brown mottled back with dark legs,