

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

Date (s): K. Cook first reported bird (5-5-87) 5-5-87 5-6 Time Bird Seen: 5-5 4 to 4:30 PM
5-6 5 to 6 PMLocality: Weld CR 16 just west of SR 257 Small pond on n. side of CR 16
Severance, CO (Weld Co.)
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7x35 Bushnell binoculars100-300 mm Tokina telephoto with Minolta SR-T SLR body.
If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Two photosSubmitted via Opler's Spring '87 Amer. Birds report to Kingery (together)Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: BreedingLight conditions: I was south of west of the bird, full sun from the southwest.Distance from bird, and how measured: ~40 yards (visual estimate)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Feeding along edge of temp. pond with long-billed dowitchers, lesser yellowlegs, killdeer, Wilson's phalarope.
This was at northeast corner of pond on 5/5. I misidentified bird as an abnormally dark mottled godwit because white-rump at no time showed. On 5/6 I pursued the bird as it fed in the same area. It flew to southwest corner of pond, revealing broad white rump. I pursued again, observed bird feeding, both with white rump showing and not showing (see photos). Flew back to north end & I left it alone.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Small temporary farm pond with cattails on north side & this year a broad several-foot wide band of wet mud. This pond was among the best for shorebirds in Weld Co. this spring.

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

Kevin Cook Fort Collins, CO 221-0012 (Kevin reported bird to me, evening of 5/5. He reported two H. Godwits, one breed and one winter plumage (w/ damaged bill). I never saw 2nd bird.

arks 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.

Large shorebird (much larger than small flock of long-billed dowitchers feeding nearby) with long legs, bill mostly straight but slightly upturned. Bill mostly salmon. Head grayish. Depending on light, back & wings either mottled dark gray & white or mottled mouse gray & white. Depending on light, belly & chest either black or rich ^{purple-}cinnamon. Legs dark, no color really evident. Broad white rump band evident at times when feeding & always when flying. Longitudinal light, flashy wing stripe evident in flight (upper surface more than lower surface but shows on both).

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

Do not remember hearing any call notes.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

White rump & wings in flight separated this bird from mottled Godwit.

Size quickly separated it from dowitchers (as did upturned bill).

as for misidentification, dark plumage in 2nd Edition of A Field Guide to W. Birds, plate 26, shows fairly dark breeding plumage for W. Godwit in my copy.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have only seen 1 Hudsonian Godwit before (Nelson Reservoir, S of Fort Collins, 5/25/86) Juv. or ♀ bird in lighter plumage

This report was written from notes made during plus photo reference after observation; from memory X add'n'l. copies could be made available.

NAME (print): David A. Leatherman

Mailing address: 2048 Whiterock Ct. Fort Collins, CO 8052

Signature: David A. Leatherman

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206