

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): 14 May 1989 Time Bird Seen: 10:45 am to 11:00 a.m.

Locality: Cheraw Lake on W. side of HWY 109.

Cheraw, Otero Co., Cal.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: KOWA TSN-4 20-60X scope, Nikon 9x30 binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: breeding ♂ Plumage: \_\_\_\_\_

Light conditions: Overcast

Distance from bird, and how measured: Est. at 200 yds

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Walking in shallow water at water's edge. Was feeding near 4 Long-billed Dowitchers; Walking slowly forward and probing bill in water somewhat like dowitchers.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow plain's reservoir

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

None



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.

This bird stood head and shoulders above Long-billed Dowitchers with which it fed. I would guess it to be about 18" long — as big as a Marbled Godwit but with a much shorter, more re-curved bill than M. Godwit.

Overall bird was dark (appeared blackish at a distance). Was blackish above w/ white speckling on the back. Undersides (belly & breast) very dark chestnut, deeper & darker colored than dowitchers. Face & sides of neck gray & lighter than undersides. Fairly strong, pale whitish supercilium. Bill med. length, strongly up-curved & deep orange except at dark tip. Legs long & dark. Bird not seen in flight.

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Slightly up-curved bill, brownish coloration indicate Godwit.

Marbled Godwit = more uniform pale brown, cinnamon colored (not dark reddish underneath; mottled brown (not black) above. Bill much longer, straighter. Face tan, not whitish gray.

Bar-tailed & Black-tailed Godwits, both dark brown ~~above~~ above (not blackish), are not deep reddish below.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw 2 ad. breeding pl. H. Godwits in S.E. Colo., Spring 1988; also in S.E. Texas in early 1980's. I've seen many Marbled Godwits.

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

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 1 CACTUS DR. LA JUNTA, CO 81030

Signature: Mark Janos

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206