

19-93-114
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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): 21 May 1988 Time Bird Seen: 1:20 to 1:30 p.m.

Locality: Ft. Lyons, west end of Lake Meredith

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs; B&L 40X scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: none.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: ad. breeding

Light conditions: Overcast; high wind

Distance from bird, and how measured: 100-300 yds, estimated; various $\frac{1}{2}$ in flight

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Standing in shallow water; preening; then tucking bill in along back. Flew off with strong flapping flight, then returned and landed.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow water, old marsh w/o any emergent vegetation yet.

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

None.

APPENDIX 1I 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. Large shorebird, about 15" long, with long legs and a long bill sharply upturned just near tip. Overall very dark bird. Body almost as large as Anh. Hootet in direct comparison. Bill shorter than Marbled Godwit & about as long as bill of Long-billed Dowitcher. Bill bright pink at base and basal half. Head and back grayish-brown with faint lighter checkering on back. Head plain but with paler face, dark eye-line and whitish supercilary. Deep orangish-brown underneath with black bars on flanks. Tail dark with white rump & narrow white terminal band. In flight, black underwing, dark upperwing and prominent narrow white wing stripe. 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:

Was godwit by large size & upturned bill.
Marbled Godwit more cinnamon with brown underwings & rump.
No other godwit has white rump, black underwing & narrow white wing stripe.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Seen twice in breeding plumage April 1984 in Texas. Many sightings of Marbled Godwit.

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

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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