

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

rec'd 7-15-98

ACCEPTED (7-0)

SPECIES: Hudsonian Godwit  
(COMMON NAME)Limosa haemastica  
(SCIENTIFIC NAME)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: May 27, 1998

DATE OF THIS OBSERVATION: May 27, 1998

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1

SEX: male

PLUMAGE: alternate

EXACT LOCATION: pond north of Weld county rd. 42 between rds. 45 and 47  
COUNTY: Weld

NEAREST TOWN: LaSalle

ELEVATION:

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: approx. 25 min.

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 12:45 - 1:10 pm

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW AND INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):

Warren Finch

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Weather was clear with bright sunlight. Sun was essentially overhead.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Bushnell 10x binoculars; Bushnell Spacemaster scope (20-45x)

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): approx. 100 yds.

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No  
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS?

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Small shallow pond in a cattle pasture.

BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN  
SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

The bird was standing almost stationary in the shallow water during the entire observation period

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD(S) [INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE; PLUMAGE  
DETAILS INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL; AND COLOR  
AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION.  
GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S)].

While looking at a Red-necked Phalarope in my scope, I noticed a "different" larger shorebird in the background of my field of view. The bird was approximately Willet-sized, and was immediately identified as a godwit by the long, bicolored upturned bill. What initially caught my eye was the pale grayish-appearing head contrasting with a blackish back and dark chestnut red underparts with fine black barring, ruling out Marbled Godwit. Identification as Hudsonian Godwit was confirmed when I was able to observe the black tail, white upper tail coverts, and blackish wing linings. Based on appearance, I concluded that this was a male Hudsonian Godwit in alternate (breeding) plumage.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW THEY WERE ELIMINATED:

Marbled Godwit (the "expected" godwit in CO): larger than HUGO; overall buff-brown color with cinnamon wing linings; tail buff-brown with black barring; upper tail coverts also buff-brown (not white).

Bar-tailed Godwit: does not have black tail, white upper tail coverts, or black wing linings

Black-tailed Godwit: in alternate plumage, head and neck are chestnut colored; wing linings are white; bill is usually straighter than other godwits

The Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits are basically Eurasian species, and can essentially be ruled out based on historic range alone, occurring in the lower-48 only casually along the coasts (even though one can always hope; I did check my ID several times to make sure it was not a Black-tailed Godwit).

**PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:**

Hudsonian Godwit: I have seen this species twice before in CO (May 1988 & May 1992; coincidentally, the one seen in 1992 was on this same pond); I have also seen them in AK & NY

Marbled Godwit: CO (several seen every year beginning in 1981); Have also seen it in AK (1st record for Gambell, 6/95), CA, FL, SC, and TX

Bar-tailed Godwit: AK (1995)

Black-tailed Godwit: None

**BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THESE INFLUENCED IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):**

NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd ed. (pp 110-111) - during and after observation

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING   X   OR AFTER   X   OBSERVATION,  
OR LATER FROM MEMORY       

DATE OF THIS WRITTEN REPORT: July 15, 1998

REPORTING OBSERVER: Dick Schottler  
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Golden, CO 80401

SIGNATURE:

