

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

6-1 (A)

Red 12/10/00 upl

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_ UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)**Date:** 16 April 2000**Number seen:** one**Sex:** female?**Plumage:**  
Alternate**Locality:** Thurston Res.**Elevation:** about 3650'**Nearest town:** May Valley**County:** Prowers**Time observed:** mid-day**Duration of observation:** about five minutes

**Description:** I was birding with others when we visited Thurston Res. I found a largish shorebird on the far side of the reservoir from us. Due to the long distance and heat haze, it was difficult to identify the bird. I decided that it must be a Greater Yellowlegs (it was fairly tall and very long-legged) and stopped looking at it. Some time later, Chris Wood called out "Hudsonian Godwit!" Yup, it was the same bird. We then studied it for a while and Chris video-taped it. Though the footage is poor, the bird is identifiable in it. The bird was mostly standing or lying down for most of the length of observation and not near any other shorebirds other than Killdeer.

The bird was a tall shorebird with very long legs and a long bill. The head was gray with a darker crown and eyeline and a paler superciliary. The bill appeared very long (more than 2x the width of the head from front to back) and dark. Though I could not quite make out any reddish on the bill, the base was paler than the tip. The back was blackish and the folded wings were gray. The underparts were paler than the upperparts, but were not very pale. I could just see that there was some strong brick reddish coloration, but in precisely what pattern, I could not discern. The tail was black and the rump was white. I waited the bird out to be sure that it wasn't a Black-tailed Godwit and finally saw it lift its wings once - the wing linings were black, separated from the gray remiges by a thin, white wing stripe.

Similar species eliminated by description: Underwing pattern, tail color, and overall pattern eliminate all possible contenders (Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, all curlews, and all other godwits).

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** The bird was not heard.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen >40 Hudsonian Godwits and 100s to 1000s of all similar species.

**Light conditions:** sun was above me

**Optical equipment used:** Leica 32x

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated at 1000 meters on the DeLorme Atlas

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** did not photograph

**List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:**

**a) at time of observation:** none

**b) after observation:** none

**Reporting observer:** Tony Leukering

**Signature:**



**Address:** Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

**Date report was written:** 18 April and 10 December 2000 from notes that I wrote that night