

6-1993 (a)

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
 VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: HUDSONIAN Godwit

Scientific Name: *Limosa haemastica*

Date: 5-11-93

Time: 4:20 PM

Length of time observed: 2½ min.

Number: 1

Age: adult

Sex: male

Location: SSW of the North Davis Sewage Treatment Plant, Syracuse, Utah  
 ½ mi<sup>W</sup>

Lat/long: Z

Elevation (if known): 4209

Distance to bird: 200 m to 50 m in flight

Light conditions: OK, but less than ideal

Optical equipment: 22X Bushnell spotting scope, 10x40 Pentax Binos

Weather: Hot, Clear

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

LARGE SHOREBIRD WITH A LONG SLIGHTLY UPTURNED ORANGE BILL WITH A BLACK TIP. THE BIRD WAS IN A MIXED FLOCK OF B.B. PLOVERS, RED KNOTS, RUDDY TURNSTONES(1), AND NOTABLY, MARBLED GODWITS & L.B. DOWITCHERS. THIS BIRD WAS NOTICEABLY (2 HEADS) SMALLER THAN THE MARBLED GODWITS AND ABOUT 3X LARGER THAN THE DOWITCHERS. THE UNDERPARTS WERE A DARK RICH CHESTNUT AND THE UPPER PARTS WERE DARK BROWNISH BLACK WITH LIGHTER TIPS TO SOME OF THE FEATHERS (SCAPULARS & WING COVERTS). THE HEAD (FACE, THROAT, & CROWN) WAS NOTICEABLY LIGHTER THAN THE UPPER BODY OR LOWER PARTS. NO EYELINE WAS OBSERVED. WHEN THE BIRD PREENED, THE RUMP WAS SEEN AS WHITE, THE TAIL WAS BLACK. WHEN THE BIRD FLUSHED, BOTH UPPER & LOWER WING SURFACES WERE BLACK WITH WHITE BASES TO THE FLIGHT FEATHERS GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF A WHITE WING ~~BASE~~.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE HEARD

Behavior:

FEEDING IN SAME PROBING STYLE AS MARBLED GODWITS

Habitat:

MUD FLAT WHERE FRESH WATER ENTERED THE G.S.L. VIRTUALLY NO VEGETATION BUT SOME SPARSE EMERGENT ALALAI BULLRUSH & PICKLEWEED WERE PRESENT.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

~~MARBLED~~ GODWIT - DIFFERENT COLOR - NO WING STRIPE - LARGER & PAVER  
WILLET - DIFFERENT COLOR - SHORTER THICKER BILL - MUCH BOLDER WING STRIPE  
DOWITCHERS - MUCH SMALLER PROPORTIONATELY LONGER BILL  
~~Black-tailed~~ Godwit - UNDERPARTS LESS COLORFUL, WING LININGS WHITE NOT BLACK

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

THIS IS MY FIRST HUDSONIAN. MORE EXPERIENCE THAN I REALLY WANT WITH MARBLED, WILLETS, & DOWITCHERS

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, SHOREBIRDS WERE BOOKS CONSULTED. PETER PATON WAS THE DISCOVERER OF THIS BIRD, & WE DISCUSSED FIELD MARKS

Significance of record in this area or the state:

AS ALWAYS, A SILLY QUESTION - LET THE RECORDS COMMITTEE DECIDE!!!

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting  notes made later \_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY  
314 S. 4500 W -

Address: WEST POINT, UTAH  
84015

Signature:



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

PETER PATON

Date prepared: 6/23/93

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah 84120