

293-01-1986

Hudsonian Godwit, Miller's Ponds, Crawford County, November
3rd 1986

Ed Kwater.

On November 3rd 1986 at about 3.30 p.m. I was birding at Miller's Ponds with Mark van der Ven and Ramsay Koury. Scanning across a stubble field, I spotted a large shorebird flying directly towards us. The bird was approximately the size of a Whimbrel, but on first impression appeared to have a straight bill. The bird descended and turned to fly across in front of us revealing a striking plumage pattern. I quickly identified it as a Hudsonian Godwit in basic plumage. In flight the bird superficially resembled a Black-tailed Godwit, a species which I am very familiar with. It had a black tail, white rump and a narrow white wing bar running down the centre of the wing. The wing bar was not as prominent as on a Black-tailed, but it was also evident on the underwing, which was otherwise gray apart from jet black underwing coverts. The underwing pattern was thus quite unlike a Black-tailed Godwit which has largely white underwings. The bird circled and flew closer, eventually alighting in the field in front of us. The head, neck and upperparts were a dull gray. There was a pronounced white supercilium extending well behind the eye. The underparts were much paler fading to white on the belly. I now had an opportunity to study the bill more closely. It was long and thin with a fairly stout base and noticeably upturned along its whole length,

strongly resembling the bill of a Bar-tailed Godwit.
The bill was distinctly two-toned in color with an orange-brown base and a darker brown tip. The legs were long and very dark gray.

The bird did not feed but was very restless flying ~~was~~ around continually and seldom remaining in one place for more than half a minute. Total observation time was 10-15 minutes before it finally disappeared to the S.W. It was observed through x10 binoculars & x20 spotting scope.

The weather was overcast with occasional rain although lighting conditions were quite good at the time of the sighting.

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Record No.: 293-01-1986

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: Hudsonian Godwit

Date of Sighting: Nov 3, 1986

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1990

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

11-10-90