

293-01-1992

Hudsonian Godwit - *Limosa haemastica*
Cumberland County, PA
October 26 through November 5, 1992

On Monday evening October 26, 1992, at about 5 pm, I went over to Kuhn Lake, which is a small private lake northwest of Newville, to do some birding. As I arrived at the lake from the west, I noticed some larger shorebirds near its northwest corner. There was a Greater Yellowlegs, a Lesser Yellowlegs and a third bird that I recognized as a godwit.

The third bird was larger than the Greater Yellowlegs with a long slightly upturned bill. The overall plumage of the back, wings and breast was gray indicating that it was probably a Hudsonian Godwit. It had a white supercilium, white belly and a white rump patch. After a few minutes the three birds took to the air, circled the lake and returned to the same corner. In flight I was able to see the black under-wing coverts and axillaries, which confirmed the initial identification by ruling out the rarer Black-tailed Godwit. A thin white line was visible on the upper wing between the flight feathers and the coverts. The upper primary coverts were darker than the rest of the upper wing resulting in a dark patch in the carpal area.

The godwit was viewed on the ground from a distance of 150 feet in failing light with a Spacemaster 22x spotting scope. In flight the bird came within 40 feet and was viewed with 10 x 50 binoculars.

At daybreak on the 27th I was joined by Bob Schutsky and Larry Lewis at Kuhn Lake to look for the bird. We found it at 7 am about a half mile away in the recently created wetlands area on the property of the Big Spring Fish and Game Association. It was seen regularly at this second location through November 5th by various observers. I saw it at Kuhn Lake only one other time during this period - November 1st.

The godwit was also photographed by several people including Bob Schutsky, Deuane Hoffman, Randy Miller and myself. Bob Schutsky has submitted his photos.

My first experience with Hudsonian Godwit was also at Kuhn Lake in November of 1988. I also observed several individuals of this species in August of 1992 at Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware. I prepared this report from field notes taken on the initial day of observation.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Hudsonian Godwit

Date of Sighting: 26 October 1992 to 5 November 1992

Observer(s): Bob Schutsky, Don Henise

Date of Submission: 1992

Submitted by: Bob Schutsky, Don Henise

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

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

7/2/93