

Hudsonian Godwit  
*Limosa haemastica*  
Centre County  
Ted Floyd

293-02-1992

Forc

I saw a basic plumage adult Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) in Centre County at 1200 h on Sunday 1 November 1992. This species is rare in Pennsylvania (Kwater 1990, Santner *et al.* 1992), and there are 3 records from Centre County (Wood 1983). The bird was feeding on a small mud flat in Foster Joseph Sayer Lake at Bald Eagle State Park. I observed the bird from a fishing pier 10 m above and 20 m away from the bird.

The bird was large and compact. Its very long bill was slightly but definitely recurved. Its bill was faintly two-toned, being paler at the base than at the tip. Its feet were entirely black. Its breast was washed with pale gray and totally devoid of any streaking. Its belly was white and unstreaked. Its face was marked with a broad and indistinct pale supercilium. Its upper parts were uniformly gray-brown except for a black tail and noticeably contrasting white rump.

The bird fed primarily on the mud flat but wandered occasionally into adjacent waters. It waded in belly-deep water and even swam briefly. I never heard it call. The bird never took flight nor raised its wings.

The bird's large size, recurved bill, and dark feet combine to exclude the possibility of all shorebird species outside of the genus *Limosa*. Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) is ruled out because of the contrasting tail pattern and overall pale gray coloration. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) is ruled out because of the distinctly recurved bill. The improbable Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) is ruled out because of the contrasting white rump and solidly black tail (more contrasting than in even the subspecies *L. l. lapponica*).

I observed the bird with 10X40 binoculars and a 45X telescope for half an hour. The sky was heavily overcast. The bird was also observed by Harry Henderson, Alberto Marcone, Jonathan Jones, Matt Rockmore, Bill Toombs, and Gene Zielinski.

#### Literature Cited:

Kwater, E. 1990. Official list of the birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 4:51-53.

Santner, S.J., D.W. Brauning, G. Schwalbe, and P.W. Schwalbe. 1992. Annotated list of the birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Biological Survey* contribution no. 4.

Wood, M. 1983. Birds of Central Pennsylvania. State College Bird Club. State College PA.

*Pesticide Research Laboratory*  
*Pennsylvania State University*  
*University Park PA 16802*

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**Postscript:** The Hudsonian Godwit's occurrence was the highlight of a spectacular mid-day fallout, evidently precipitated by strong easterly winds. Other unusual species at Bald Eagle State Park that day included: 52 Black Scoters, 5 Surf Scoters, 2 Sanderlings, 6 Dunlins, and 19 Western Sandpipers. I received a report that later in the day a flock of 100 *Calidris* sandpipers was seen at Bald Eagle State Park. Indeed, the entire week provided rare birds at Bald Eagle State Park and elsewhere in Centre County. These included: Snow Goose, Brant, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-plover, and the previously mentioned species.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Hudsonian Godwit

Date of Sighting: 1 November 1992

Observer(s): Ted Floyd

Date of Submission: 1992

Submitted by: Ted Floyd

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			6	1			
DECISION							

Comments:

*Go to second Round*

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Hudsonian Godwit**Date of Sighting: **1 November 1992**Observer(s): **Ted Floyd**Date of Submission: **1992**Submitted by: **Ted Floyd**

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			6	1			
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J. Chan*

Date:

*11/14/93*