

293 - 01 - 1995

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: August 3, 1995

Time: 7:15 to 7:45 PM

Weather: clear, light wind

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Viewing conditions: good to fair

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and TSN 4 Kowa scope at 35X

Details of sighting and description: I received a call on Wednesday evening about a large shorebird that was found at Gull Point. It was described as looking similar to a Hudsonian Godwit, but the bill seemed wrong. On Thursday evening I received another call from a different birder who had seen this bird around 11:00 AM, but he wasn't sure what it was. After talking with him I rushed out to Presque Isle and arrived at beach 11 at sunset. I found the bird within a couple of minutes. It was standing at the tip of the sand spit with its head tucked over its back. The size and shape were right for a Hudsonian Godwit. After about five minutes the godwit lifted its head and I immediately realized why this bird had presented an identification challenge, about 35 to 40% of the bill was missing. There was some fraying at the break as if had been shot or bitten off. It was not a bill deformity. The light was fading, but I could clearly see the bird was in pre-basic plumage. There was a Ruddy Turnstone feeding next to it for size comparison as well as a Ring-billed Gull. The godwit was about twice the size of the turnstone and nearly the same size as the gull. The basal part or remainder of the bill appeared pale. The head neck and upper parts were dusky. There was a white supercilium being most prominent above and in front of the eye. The upperwing coverts were medium gray noticeably lighter than the mantle and primaries. The breast and throat were dusky gray and rather sharply defined from the lower white breast. The belly was mottled with dark red and the vent and undertail coverts were boldly marked with broad black and white bars. The legs were long and appeared to be brownish not gray and were darkest at the knee and ankle. The bird flew a short distance and showed dark flight feathers with a prominent narrow white wing stripe being widest at the base of the inner primaries. The rump and perhaps the base of the tail was white and the remainder of the tail was black. The underwing coverts were distinctly black ruling out Black-tailed Godwit.

I have seen several Hudsonian Godwits in Pennsylvania and a few along the Atlantic Coast.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

Date of Sighting: 3 August 1995 to 3 August 1995

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES

PHOTO NO

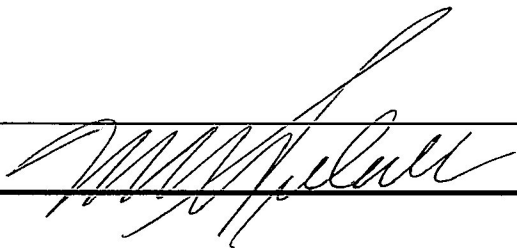
SPECIMEN NO

RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes	X		X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					1
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

10/8/00