

State/Regional Bird Records Committee

Rare Bird Report Form

Species: Hudsonian Godwit Date: 9/1/2002

Number-Age-Sex: non-breeding adult (2) Time: 4:10pm to 4:15pm

Location: Martins Creek (PPL) Flyash basin, Northampton County

Habitat: exposed gravel flat on man-made pond

Weather Conditions: storm from out of South moving up coast
Light to moderate rain, breezy

Distance: 75 to 100 yards

Optical Equipment: Leica APO-Televid 77 at 50X

Photographs Taken?: Yes: No:

Other Observers:

<u>Adam Miller</u>	<u>Bath, PA</u>	<u>610-759-2065</u>	
Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

<u>Rick Wiltraut</u>	<u>Nazareth, PA</u>	<u>610-759-5184</u>	
Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

<u>Steve Boyce</u>	<u>Nazareth, PA</u>		
Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

<u>Ed Boyce</u>			
Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

Name	Address	Phone	e-mail

Experience of main observer: None with this species, saw Marbled Godwit
on 2 occasions, most recently last year on Corejohela Flats

Date Description Written: 9/1/02

Description of Sighting: (include size, shape, color patterns, song, call notes, behavior, and other diagnostic characteristics, but only what was actually observed in the field. Attach sketches, photographs, and additional sheets, if necessary.)

I saw 2 large shorebirds, much larger than the numerous Lesser Yellowlegs, standing in water covering their legs with their backs towards me among a group of mallards. I knew right away they were Godwits when one turned and its large, long, upturned bill could be seen. The bill was orange with a black tip. They were seen thru the spotting scope at 50X. The front of the Godwits was not visible, only the head, neck, back, and rear + side flanks. Within minutes (about 3) of being found, they took off and were seen in flight and their flight call was heard. The call was a high-pitched "ta-wit", repeated as their distance widened.

The Godwits had dark grey-brown upperparts. There was a definite

~~Similar Species / How Eliminated:~~

contrast to grayish underparts. One Godwit was observed lifting its head up and turning its head and bill broad-side to the observers. There was a long, narrow white line above the eye. Head and neck grayish-brown, but not as dark as the back. The neck looked short on its large chunky body. The side flanks were washed gray and the undertail area whitish. The upper and mid belly area could not be seen, but the breast was grayish-brown like the neck.

Name: Michael Schall Signature: Michael Schall Date: 10/20/02

Address: 1149 Mickley Ave. Whitehall, PA 18052

mdtjschall@yahoo.com

Mail this form along with accompanying (stapled) materials to:
Address of Committee inserted here.

Similar Species / How ELIMINATED

Their size eliminates any smaller shorebirds, since they were heavier bodied and much larger than the Yellowlegs nearby. The long upturned bill eliminates Willet which has a medium-sized straight bill and Curlews and Whimbrels with long decurved bills.

There are 4 possible Godwits that might be seen, the first 2 (Bar-tailed and Black-tailed) are rare in the Eastern USA. The reasons I eliminated the other 3 are as follows:

Black-tailed Godwits have a typically straight bill and have longer necks. The non-breeding *melanoides* race has similar dark grey-brown upperparts but shows a diffuse pale supercillium. Also, there is not much contrast in gray color between the neck, breast and upperparts. The Godwits seen ~~had~~ showed a definite contrast, had long upturned bills, and a long white supercillium which should eliminate Black-tailed.

Bar-tailed Godwits are similar in body shape, but its non-breeding plumage shows browner, more heavily streaked upperparts, Neck and breast slightly washed brown and finely streaked. In flight, only the toes stick out behind the tail. The Godwits observed, looked dark against the overcast sky which prevented any good field marks from being seen, but the feet were definitely extended beyond the tail. Flight calls are somewhat similar and not helpful. Bar-tailed is thus eliminated since the Godwits seen did not have streaked upperparts and supported by the observation that the feet were extended beyond the tail in flight.

Marbled Godwits are larger proportioned birds with speckled-brown and cinnamon upperparts and pale-buff colored underparts. Their flight call is more harsh and low pitched compared to what was heard. This description eliminates Marbled Godwit since the bird seen had grayish-brown upperparts and grayish and white underparts.

References:

Field Guide to the Birds of North America by National Geographic
The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Sibley
Shorebirds, An Identification Guide by Hayman, Marchant, Prater
Master Guide to Birding Vol 2 by The Audubon Society
North American Birds CD-ROM

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica)

Date of Sighting: 1 September 2002 to 1 September 2002

Location: MARTIN'S CREEK FLYASH BASIN

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Michael Schall et al.

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Michael Schall et al

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	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote					X			
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5		2			
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 6/12/03

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

Date of Sighting: 1 September 2002 to 1 September 2002

Location: MARTIN'S CREEK FLYASH BASIN

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Michael Schall et al

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Michael Schall

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

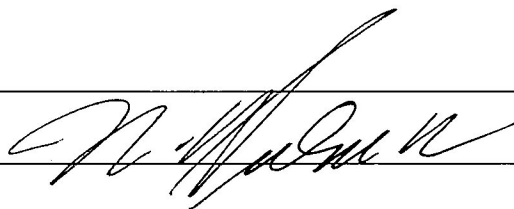
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead				X				
D. Heathcote					X			
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley				X				
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			1	4	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments:

1/6

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/10/04