

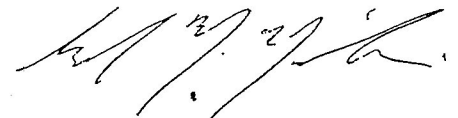
295-01-1989

MARbled GODWIT

On September 5, 1989 at 5:30 PM I took a casual walk out to Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park. By 6:30 PM I had thoroughly covered the ponds and sand spits at the tip of Gull Point and had seen nothing unusual. On the trip back to the north end of Gull Point I decided to take another look at the gulls congregated here. Almost immediately I discovered a juvenile Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) on the left side of the flock. This was quite exciting since this is only the second time a Little Gull of this age has been recorded in Erie County. Moments later my attention was drawn to a large shorebird flying toward me from the lake about 12' above the water. My first thought was "Whimbrel" (*Numenius phaeopus*), until it turned when it reached the beach and revealed its very long upturned bill which identified it as a godwit. The light was favorable since I was between the bird and the sun, so that the following details identifying it as a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) could be clearly seen. The godwit was about the size of a Whimbrel. Its wingbeats were strong but shallow. The upturned bill was nearly as long as the outstretched dark grey legs and the basal half of the mandibles was pinkish or flesh colored with the outer half of the bill appearing black. The underside of the bird was buff, and the wing linings were rufous. The back of the bird was dark brown with extensive pale mottling. The flanks showed some barring. The upper tail and the rump were buff with heavy dark brown barring. The greater coverts were dark brown, contrasting with the pale buffy-orange inner primaries, buffy median coverts and secondary coverts.

The lack of a white wing stripe and rump quickly eliminated Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*). Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) was eliminated because the feet of this bird extended past the tail, and the wing linings were rufous or cinnamon, and it did not show any white in the rump or tail. The godwit was silent as it made 2 passes around Gull Point without landing, and in less than 5 minutes of exploring the point, the bird flew away in a westerly direction. The sky was clear with only a few cirrus clouds. The wind was southerly to about 5 mph with the temperature about 75 F. The bird was observed with a 10 X 40 Zeiss Dyalyt Binocular.

Jerry McWilliams



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of /

Species: Marbled Godwit

Date of Sighting: 09/05/89

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1989

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

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:

12-26-89