

295-02-1995

## Marbled Godwit

*Limosa fedoa*

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: July 21, 1995

Time: 9:15 to 9:25 AM

Weather: Cloudy (stratus) light rain

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

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

Details of sighting and description: While conducting a shorebird survey in Region II of Gull Point I heard the call of a distant Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) approaching from the north. Within a minute or two the bird was in view. Following close behind the bird was another bird similar in size that I assumed was another Whimbrel. When both birds were nearly overhead, I could see that the second bird was slightly larger with slightly slower wing beats. As they passed directly overhead and then turned I could clearly see that the second bird also had a slightly upturned bill. The Whimbrel continued to fly south, but the godwit circled the point a couple of more times before it flew off.

The godwit never got closer to me than a couple of hundred yards, but I was able to easily identify it as a Marbled Godwit by the following field marks. The bill was long and heavy and slightly curved upward throughout its length. The basal half of the bill was pale and the outer half was dark. The neck was long as in Whimbrel and the body was heavy. The legs were long and dark with the feet projecting beyond the short tail. The wing shape was similar to the Whimbrel, being rather long and pointed. However, the wing beats were slower and deeper than the Whimbrels. The entire bird was warm brown and the buffy-orange primaries and secondaries were easily seen especially when the bird turned and flew low with the trees in the background. The buffy-orange flight feathers could be seen as the bird flew overhead as well. The cinnamon wing linings could only be detected when the bird was flying against a dark background. The godwit called a couple of times giving a low but loud 'kuwak,' which was quite different from the rattling 'pee-pee-pee-pee-pee' of the Whimbrel.

I have seen six Marbled Godwits on Presque Isle since 1981. I have also seen them along the Atlantic coast and in the southwestern part of the United States.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

Date of Sighting: 21 July 1995 to 21 July 1995

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: YES Photo: ~~YES~~ Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J. C. Haas*

Date:

5-1-96