

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa) How many? 1Location? 4 mi. North of Waterloo (U.S. Hwy 20) at ponds along Wagner Rd. Black Hawk Co., IAType of habitat? Flooded field, farmlandWhen? date(s): May 2, 1984 time: 6:00 pm to 6:02 pm
approx.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noothers before or after you: None that I know of

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I had been watching shore birds when I saw a large sandpiper flying in from the South. The bird flew in front of me as if to land with the other sandpipers already on the mud beside the road. It made three circles over the area and kept on its way to the North. The bird got as close as about 20 feet from the ground one time in front of me. I noticed it did not have a white rump but had the large bicolored bill of a Godwit. As it made its last pass before flying away I saw that the bird had bright cinnamon colored wing linings on the underwing coverts. It then banked away and flew out of sight. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Hudsonian Godwit usually ~~is~~ darker on sides and breast with a white rump patch. The Hudsonian does not have cinnamon wing linings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sunny facing E. with sun at my back from approx. 30 yards using 7X35 Bausch + Lomb binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: Have seen quite a few Marbled Godwits and many more Hudsonian GodwitsReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 30 min. this form completed? 1 hour

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