

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa) 2. Number 1
3. Location Big Marsh near Parkersburg, IA (Butler County)
4. Date: 4-5-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 a.m. to 10:01 a.m.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Large sandpiper with extremely ~~long~~ and heavy bill (at its base), compared to other shorebirds. Bird was seen briefly but I am sure of identification because the upper tail coverts were about the same coloration as the rest of the bird, a buffy-brown color not white as in the Hudsonian Godwit. The bill was long and slightly recurved with a heavy looking base. As the bird flew over I noticed a cinnamon color in the underwing linings as it flared slightly to its left. A large shorebird with long slender bill, dark legs and ~~and~~ a buffy-brown rump and upper-tail coverts.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
8. Description of behavior: flying low from South to North at Big Marsh near Parkersburg, IA
9. Habitat - general: Marsh
specific: Shallow and mostly drained marsh
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Hudsonian Godwit has white upper-tail coverts and no cinnamon in the under-wing linings.
11. Distance (how measured)? approximately 75 feet 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 B+L Binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sunny; Sun at backs as we faced West while watching bird fly over, flying from South to North, excellent light
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen very few Marbled Godwits previous to this sighting and have seen probably no more than 35 or 40 Hudsonian Godwits since 1967 ~~when~~ when I started keeping lists.
15. Other observers: Bob Myers, Jody Hines, Antoinette Camarata, Russell Hays.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Russell Hays, Bob Myers
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins' Birds of North America; Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, East. Field guides used to make sure of identification, I already had basic field marks noted and wanted to see illustration of the bird that I knew I had seen.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 days.
- Signature: Francis A. Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue
- Date: 4/7/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701