

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa) How many? 1Location? Cooling ponds for power plant South of Council BluffsType of habitat? Cooling ponds for power plant, shallow on end where bird wasWhen? date(s): April 24, 1982 time: ^{3:45} 3:45 to ^{4:00} 4:00Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myers, Ross Silcockothers before or after you: Donot Know

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.

We were on the West side of the South cooling pond and noticed a very large shore bird sitting just out of the water. After setting up the telescopes we could see it was a Godwit but were not absolutely sure which one. Ross walked down to flush the bird to make sure. When he got to within about 50 feet of the bird it raised its wings and the cinnamon wing linings could be seen. When it raised its wings we could also see that it did not have a white rump as the Hudsonian Godwit would have, in winter plumage. The bird's size was very large for a shore bird with an overall buffy gray color. The back was mottled with white spots and there was a very faint thin barring on its breast and belly and flanks. The bill was very long, about $\frac{1}{2}$ the bird's ~~size~~ length, and was black on the front half of the bill and a lighter brown color on the upper half toward the base of the bill. The bird had long, slender, dark legs. The bill also was slightly upward turned or recurved.

Similar species and how eliminated: Hudsonian Godwit has a white rump patch, this bird did not. Hudsonian does not have the cinnamon colored wing linings like this bird had.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (^{150 yds.} how measured), and optical equipment:

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits prior to this.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Birds of N. America; Robbins, Bruun, Zimm + Singer

How long before field notes made? time of observation this form completed? _____

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