

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Hudsonian Godwit; **Number:** 1 basic

Location: Amana L., Iowa Co., IA

Date: 28 Oct 1994; **Time:** 2:00-2:15 p.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Dick Tetrault with me.

Habitat and circumstances: large shallow lake at low water with extensive mud flats.

Description of bird: We spotted a very large shorebird (larger than Greater Yellowlegs present but not in direct comparison) with long upturned bill feeding in shallow water. It had a soft gray body and head, dark (black) legs and bill, and some apparent black on the face near the bill (mud?). The wings were darker than the body with a hint of some markings. It poked in shallow water with its heavy upturned bill. Dick flushed the bird while I watched through the scope. It had a white rump and thin white wing stripes from above and below. We later flushed it again to confirm that the underwing coverts were black and the flight feathers were light from below.

Voice: not heard.

Similar species: Marbled Godwit is eliminated by the white rump, wing stripe, and lack of cinnamon or brownish coloration. Black-tailed Godwit is eliminated by the contrasting and dark underwing.

Any one have reservations?: Not after we flushed it.

Light: We were looking north^{east}~~west~~; **Distance:** 50 yards (est); **Optics:** 10x binocular; 20x scope.

Previous experience: This is only my second fall Hudsonian for Iowa, although some spring birds are mostly in basic plumage.

References before/after viewing: National Geographic Guide while viewing.

Time of notes: during observation; **Final typing:** 1 week.