

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES

Marbled Godwit, Limosa fedoa
20 May 1993, approx. 2-2:45 p.m.
Amana Lily Lake, Iowa Co., Iowa

Single bird observed across the width of the lake, perhaps 300 yards(?), with 10-30x zoom binoculars under mostly cloudy skies. I used 30x magnification for most of the observation. The bird foraged in shallow water against the lakeshore mudflat. Initially spotted by it's large size, dwarfing nearby Black-bellied Plovers. Heavy-bodied and long-billed, at first I thought it might be a Willet except, even at great distance, the bill appeared gently upcurved. Soon it took off and flew northwest along shore when I saw extensive bright cinnamon flashing on both upper and lower wing surfaces. The rest of the bird was warm brown, including uniformly brown rump and tail. After alighting again at the shallow lake margin, I watched it forage back to the southeast. Before I left the bird took flight again, once more flashing bright cinnamon on both wing surfaces.

I have extensive past experience with Marbled Godwit as a fairly common migrant on the upper Texas coast and in California. Hudsonian Godwit has white rump and lacks cinnamon in wings. Long-billed Curlew has longer, down-curved bill.

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