

DATE OF OBSERVATION MAY 15, 1982  
RARE BIRD SIGHTING DATE OF THIS WRITING MAY 16, 1982

AMERICAN BIRDS  
1982-08 wfo  
2006-11 (R82)

Species: HIDEHOOD GOWIT  
(Vernacular name)

LIMOSA HAEMASTICA  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

MAY 19 1982

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

028

Date (s): MAY 15, 1982 Time Bird Seen: 5:40 P.M. to 6:20 P.M.

Locality: N.W. SHORELINE OF PELICAN LAKE, SE. OF RANDLETT, UTAH, WINTAH COUNTY.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 3 SPOTTING SCOPES (BUSHNELL & BAUSCH & LOM) AT 30 X

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂? Plumage: BREEDING

Light conditions: PARTLY CLOUDY AT FIRST (15 MIN.) GOOD SUNLIGHT FROM WEST. LAST 20-25 MIN. BIRD WAS TO SOUTH OF US WITH SUNLIGHT ON RIGHT

Distance from bird, and how measured: 100 YDS. — 35 YD. ESTIMATE  
BEGIN FINAL

Describe the bird's overall behavior: MARK CROMLEY & I OBSERVED THE BIRD IN FLIGHT OVER HEAD & THEN IT BANKED SHARPLY DOWNWARD, FOLDED ITS WINGS & PLUMMETED DOWNWARD WITH A SH "TAWIT" and LANDED AMONG A FLOCK OF 60 MARBLED GODWITS THAT WERE FEEDING IN SHALLOW WATER; A FLOCK THAT HAD A PARTIAL ALBINO GODWIT THAT DENNIS SHIRLEY WAS OBSERVING WHEN THIS BIRD MARK & I WERE OBSERVING LANDED RIGHT BY IT. IT BEGAN FEEDING WITH THE OTHER GODWITS BY PROBING WITH ITS LONG BILL IN THE SHALLOW WATER.

WE OBSERVED THE WHITE WING STRIPE & THE BROAD WHITE TAIL BAND AT THIS TIME WHEN IT WAS LANDING.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
SHORELINE OF PELICAN LAKE. MUDFLAT HABITAT. NO TREES, SCATTERED LOW-LYING VEGETATION (WEEDS & BRUSH)

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

75-1564 MARK E. CROMLEY 1480 NO. JORDAN AVE, PROVO, UT. 84601

7-7343 DENNIS SHIRLEY 641 EAST 500 NO. SPANISH FORK UT. 84650

In great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, legs, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

SIZE - WILLET-SIZED; SMALLER THAN MARBLED GODWITS WITH WHICH IT WAS FEEDING SIMILAR TO WILLETS, 4 OF WHICH WERE FEEDING IN THE GROUP.

SHAPE - SLENDER - NOT PLUMP LONGER THAN GREATER YELLOW LEGS

PLUMAGE & COLOR PATTERN - TOP OF HEAD GRAYISH OR DARK. SIDE OF HEAD LIGHT GRAY WITH DISTINCT WHITE EYE LINE

BREAST & ABDOMEN - RUDDY-BREASTED OR RICH REDDISH-BROWN (SLIGHTLY DARKER ON ABDOMEN)

BACK - DARK BROWN - DARKER THAN THE MARBLED GODWITS.

LEGS - BLuish-BLACK

WINGS - DARK WING WITH BROAD WHITE WING STRIPE & BLACK WING LINING.

TAIL - BLACK ON 1-2" OF TAIL WITH BROAD WHITE BAND CLOSEST TO END. UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE NARROWLY BANDED BLACK & WHITE (JUST LIKE PICTURE IN AUDUBON EASTERN FIELD GUIDE, BUT WHICH IS NOT INDICATED IN ANY OF THE WESTERN FIELDGUIDES).

BILL - LONG BUT NOT AS LONG AS MARBLED & SLIGHTLY UPTURNED; BASAL  $\frac{2}{3}$  WAS ORANGISH & TIP ( $\downarrow$ ) WAS BLACK.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

SINGLE CALL IN FLIGHT AS IT WAS LANDING WITH OTHER GODWITS.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

MARBLED GODWITS - THESE WERE LARGER & LIGHTER-COLORED; LONGER AND DEFINITE UPTURNED BILL.

BAR-TAILED GODWITS - LIGHTER BREAST; UNIFORMLY COLORED HEAD & CHEEK, FINER & MORE NUMEROUS TAIL BARRING.

Prior experience with this and similar species: NONE WITH THIS ONE, BUT I.D. IS CERTAIN.

ALL OF US HAVE SEEN THE MARBLED GODWIT A NUMBER OF TIMES.

This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory

NAME (print): MERRILL WERR

Mailing address: 1063 EAST 400 NORTH, DREM, UTAH 84057

Signature: MERRILL WERR

Return to:

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