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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Hudsonian Godwit

Scientific Name: Limosa haemastica

Date: Sept. 3, 1987 Time: 5:30 pm

Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: 1 Age:

Sex:

Location: Black Hawk Duck Club, Salt Lake County
West of Salt Lake airport

Latilong: 5

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 100 feet

Light conditions: sun at back


Optical equipment: 7X35 binoculars, 15-60 scope

Weather: calm, clear

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Godwit shape and size

Bill dark with red base (mainly lower mandible)
fairly straight.

Tail/rump tail solid black contrasting sharply with the white rump 

Wings (in flight) dark with narrow white line running through middle - W. T. like except ^{white} line much narrower.

Undertail coverts belly vent white.

Back / ^{wing coverts} appeared gray with narrow lighter edgings. the actual back may have had some brown.

Very white pronounced supercilium

Dark Loos Crown appeared to have some brownish mottling.

Under wing linings appeared grayish not appearing to contrast with the bird itself. (Bird watched along time in flight but mostly with back toward observer)

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None

Behavior: Was with marbled godwits, avocets, dowitchers
Spent most of the time feeding with marbled godwits, Flew
and was relocated on other side of pond near shore.
Flew circled widely to east, north then headed west.

Habitat: Pond

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Marbled Godwit - completely different coloration + feather patterns
marbled cinnamon without black and white
wings + tail.

Willet - does not have a black and red bill. ~~Strong~~ wing stripe
much broader on Willet.

Black-tailed - has a broader wing stripe than Hudsonian

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

1 record in spring from Pelican Lake (1 was collected on
this same area the following spring.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Jon Dunn - gave me confidence that I had adequately
ruled out Black-tailed Godwit.

Significance of record in this area or the state: 4 state record. First fall
record in Utah. Exceptionally rare fall migrant in west. ~~state~~

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later from memory

Observer: Ella Sorensen

Signature: Ella Sorensen

Address: 3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, UT 84120

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: Sept 3 1987

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120