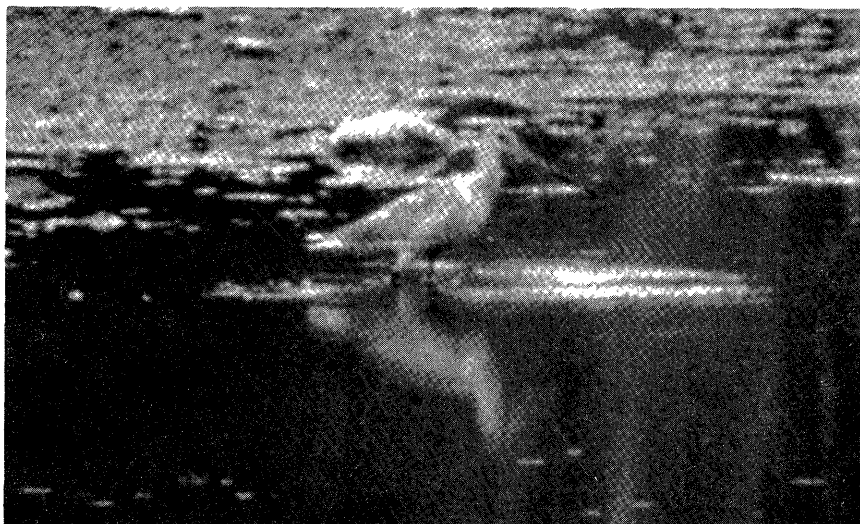


NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Marbled Godwit Inland in Upstate New York: Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) is a rare or uncommon regular fall migrant on the coast but it is very rare inland (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 245). Bull notes only twelve reliable reports upstate through 1976. Inland, away from Lake Ontario, he specifies seven records.



This photograph documents the first recorded sighting of a Marbled Godwit in Columbia County. The bird was discovered by Wendy Neefus, a professional wildlife photographer, on 31 August 1985 at Geoffroy's Pond in the town of Claverack. This location is about 120 miles from the Atlantic coast and about eight miles from the Hudson River. Wendy called me at 6:00 p.m. on the day that he found the bird to question its identity, so I hurried to the site with Patricia West to investigate.

The godwit remained in the area through September 3rd (4 days) allowing ample time for observation by many local birders. A detailed report has been submitted to the NYS Avian Records Committee, but one unusual plumage characteristic is worthy of note. The distal half of the leading edge of the right wing was white due to one or two albanistic primaries.

I wish to thank Wendy Neefus for his continued assistance in reporting sightings of unusual birds. His support was greatly appreciated during the Avian Atlas project and his reports continue to be of significant value.

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