

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*



Folk Name: Long-billed Snipe, Square Curlew

Status: Migrant

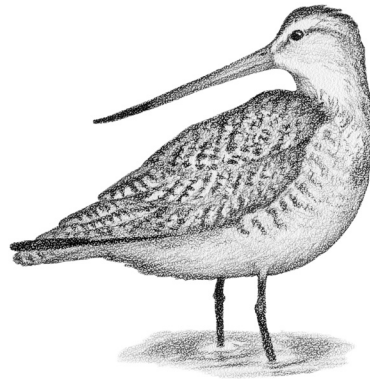
Abundance: Accidental

Habitat: Mudflats

The sight of a Marbled Godwit in a flock of our regularly occurring shorebirds would be enough to make anyone take notice. The godwit's size, measuring about 18 inches in length, its 5-inch-long, slightly upturned bill, and its long legs, immediately set it apart from our other shorebirds. The Marbled Godwit nests in the prairies of Canada and the Midwest and is an uncommon visitor to the coast of the Carolinas, most being found during migration and in winter.

The Marbled Godwit is one of the rarest shorebirds that can be found inland in the Carolinas. The first inland record in either state was a bird seen at Jordan Lake in late August 1983. David Wright, Heathy Walker, and Harriett Whitsett are credited with finding the second inland record of Marbled Godwit in North Carolina at Falls Lake in Durham County on August 16, 1985. The first inland record in South Carolina was a bird seen east of Columbia in late September 1989, a day after Hurricane Hugo passed.

There are three records of this bird in the Central Carolinas. Allen Bryan found four Marbled Godwits on Moss Lake in Cleveland County on September 22, 1989, after Hurricane Hugo had moved through. A few years later, Harriett Whitsett discovered the first Marbled



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Godwit in Mecklenburg County at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge on August 1, 1993. Taylor Piephoff located one, possibly the same bird, there on 17 August.

Many observers had the chance to see an inland Marbled Godwit at Lake Don T. Howell in Cabarrus County in August 2001. This bird's bicolored bill was described as "red-black," and it was associating with a mixed flock of shorebirds on a series of extensive, exposed mudflats. A prolonged drought had been in effect. The bird was first found by Tomm Lorenzin on 17 August, and it lingered there for almost two months.

The Marbled Godwit is listed on the Yellow Watch List of birds of the continental United States. It is a species with both "troubling" population declines and "high threats." It is in need of conservation action.