

# Hudsonian Godwit migration: a comment

Harrington *et al.* (1993) state that Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica* leave their principal breeding grounds in late August, cross the Atlantic coastline near the Gulf of St. Lawrence and then fly south over the Atlantic before arriving at *unknown destinations* in South America.

While I lived in Puerto La Cruz, eastern Venezuela between 20 March 1991 and 20 March 1993 I made regular visits (at least two a month) to the coastal lagoons to the west (sites 50 to 54, Morrison & Ross 1989). In that time I made six sightings of Hudsonian Godwit.

Place	Number	Date
Puerto Piritu	2	24 March 1991
Laguna de Unare	1	27 July 1991
Juncal Lagoon	24	23 August 1992
Boca de Uchire	1	11 October 1992
Barcelona Pools	2	14 December 1991

It appears that Hudsonian Godwits are uncommon in eastern Venezuela with one or two birds present between October and March (and a single non-breeding bird in July?). The group of 24 adults on 23 August 1992 arrived

## Thank you!

Many thanks to all those who have helped with all stages of the publication of recent *Bulletins*:

### EDITORIAL

John Bell, Gerard Boere, Andy Brown, John Cayford, Nicola Crockford, Nick Davidson, Nigel Clark, Steve Gibson, Rhys Green, Phil Grice, Jaga Gromadzka, Peter Hicklin, Phil Holland, Jeff Kirby, Henk Koffijberg, John Marchant, Peter Meininger, Lys Muirhead, Theunis Piersma, David Pritchard, Hans-Ulrich Rösner, Gerg Ruiz, Ron Summers, Bill Sutherland, Des Thompson, John Uttley, Janine van Vessem, Robin Ward, Sylvia White and Derek Yalden.

from the north-east at 16.30 (local time), flew over me at approximately 100 ft before towering higher and flying due south without stopping. The calm and clear weather was not unusual for the time of year.

The date suggests these birds had recently completed their southward journey over the Caribbean but their reluctance to stop may suggest that they had already stopped-over not far away (as close as Margarita or somewhere in the Greater/Lesser Antilles? Hudsonian Godwits occur on passage in small numbers in the West Indies: Hayman *et al.* 1986) arriving in such a condition that an immediate stop-over in eastern Venezuela was not required (hence the scarcity of records?).

### REFERENCES

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