

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

STATUS

Threatened 

Not listed 

37

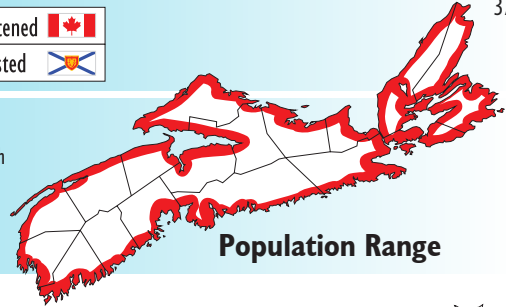


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Species Description

The Hudsonian Godwit is a large shorebird (36-42 cm long) with a notably long neck, long dark grey legs and a long, narrow, and slightly upturned bill. The bill is pink at the base, with a black tip. Both females and males have a bold white wing stripe, and a white rump at the base of a black tail. During the breeding season, between June and July, males have a darker red-brown chest with black barring above while the females generally appear paler. When not breeding, it has uniform grey body plumage. Females are larger and heavier than males.

Nova Scotia falls along the southbound migration path of the Hudsonian Godwit as it heads to its wintering range in South America.



Population Range

Habitat

It migrates from its breeding range in the boreal and sub-arctic regions of Canada and Alaska to its wintering area along the coasts of Chile and Argentina. The majority migrate through the central flyway, however some stopover in Atlantic Canada, choosing sites with coastal wetlands such as marshy ponds or tidal flats.



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Be on the lookout for the Hudsonian Godwit near coastal wetlands from late July to October during their fall migration.



Interesting Points

- Canada is home to the majority (53%) of the world's Hudsonian Godwits.
- A Hudsonian Godwit will remain in their wintering range year-round until they reach maturity at around three or four years old and are ready to fly north for the breeding season.
- It has one of the longest migration routes in the western hemisphere; the combined distance of the fall and spring migrations between North and South America is around 32,000 kilometers.



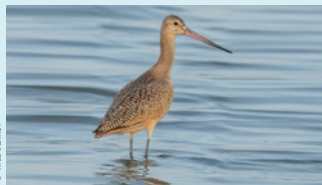
In flight

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Similar Species

Marbled Godwit:

Larger (42-48 cm), browner overall. Nonbreeding birds have cinnamon coloured underparts, and barring. Breeding birds have barred underparts and no red-brown chest. A rare occurrence in Atlantic Canada.



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Bar-tailed Godwit:

Similar size (37-39cm). Breeding birds have red-brown underparts that extend up the neck. Nonbreeding birds have streaked backs. A rare occurrence in Atlantic Canada.



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Threats to Survival

- Shoreline hardening (seawalls, riprap, bulkheads, etc.) resulting in the loss of essential foraging and roosting habitat.
- Disturbance from people and off leash dogs.
- Breeding, foraging, and wintering habitat loss (melting permafrost, advancement of tree line in sub-Arctic, rising sea levels, urban development).
- Mortality and delays during migration caused by increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and strong winds.



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How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and keep an eye out for them during their stopover in the fall. If you have spotted one, take a photograph, record the location, and report your sighting to eBird or iNaturalist. Help monitor shorebirds by participating in the Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey. Advocate for climate change initiatives, and the protection of the province's coastal habitats.



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Participate in the Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: NS Department of Natural Resources: biodiversity@novascotia.ca

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca; www.naturecounts.ca/nc/socb-epoc

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447, www.ebird.org, www.inaturalist.org

Stewardship: Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey: shorebirds@ec.gc.ca