

## WEST VIRGINIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Number: WVBRC 2023-2 Species: Marbled Godwit Cabell Co

**Vote (select only one)** \_X\_ For State List \_Hypothetical List \_Against \_Exotic

**Reasons voting FOR the record:** *(attach more pages if necessary)*

- CM1) The birds are well described and although the report does not distinguish these birds from other species of godwit, the attached photographs clearly depict Marbled Godwits. In addition, the birds were seen by several other experienced birders at the same time who agreed with the identification. Since this sighting took place on the Ohio River, the question often arises as to whether any birds reported are in West Virginia or Ohio. Fortunately, in this case, the observer made sure through Google Maps that the concrete abutment the birds were on is in West Virginia.
- CM2) This record documents Marbled Godwits seen from both the Ohio and West Virginia sides of the Ohio River. The birds were seen by several birders including very experienced birders. The record describes the sighting very well for Marbled Godwit, including the cinnamon underwings seen during stretching. The Cinnamon colored underwing rules out other godwits, and the photographs provided clearly document the birds as Marbled Godwits. My only question was whether the old locks were in Ohio or West Virginia. However, Google maps shows that the part of the concrete pad where the birds were seen is considered part of West Virginia.
- CM3) Photos and description are accurate.
- CM4) Beautiful photos of Marbled Godwits. Timing during spring migration is spot on. Warm brown markings with a mottled appearance pretty distinctive. Larger than the nearby Willet in the photo.
- CM5) Clear and accurate descriptions of the bird, including detailed assessments of its size relative to other nearby species, its plumage, bill. Seen by experienced birders familiar with the species, and accompanied by photographic evidence.
- CM6) Very credible observers viewed birds at relatively close range and obtained photographs. Plumage characteristics generally match species. Vocalizations were also noted.
- CM7) Detailed descriptions, photographs, and witness support.