

## **OBSERVING GRACE**

### **LONG-BILLED CURLEW**

We were first introduced by a friend over 30 years ago. It was first light in a rice field when only silhouettes are visible. Only a fleeting glance, but it left a lasting impression. Over time our paths crossed on many occasions, but shyness prevailed and that fleeting impression was all that remained.

Over the years, my curiosity grew, was it real? I raised my boys to men, my heart was free and so was my schedule. It was time to pursue that lasting impression to see if it was real. Would shyness prevail? "What the Hell", I gave it a whirl, off to the pasture with binoculars in hand, I had to understand. Hours of observation and research, no camera - just the mind's eye and thumbnail sketches revealed the trueness of that initial impression. It was Real—"long legs, slender body, large wing span, long decurved bill, a sculptural goddess, the epitome of grace, the Curlew.

**KEN NEWMAN**  
**SCULPTURES**