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SHORT NOTES

Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit harried by Bar-tailed Godwits

On 7, 11 and 21 June 1986 we observed an Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit (*L. limosa melanuroides*) at the ARA Ponds, Mangere. The bird was in partial breeding plumage with rufous neck, throat and breast and dark barring on the lower breast and sides.

On all three occasions it was persistently harried by members of a flock of 300 Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) whenever it tried to roost among them or near them. On two of our three visits it was eventually forced to fly from the roost, chased a considerable distance by three or four Bar-tailed Godwits, and did not return.

Falla *et al.* (1979, *The New Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*, Auckland: Collins) state that this species "may be looked for wherever Bar-tailed Godwits occur" and Heather & Brathwaite (1985, in *Complete Book of New Zealand Birds*, Sydney: Reader's Digest) state that "the species may associate with the bar-tailed godwit". Although the two species may associate there may clearly be considerable antagonism towards solitary Black-tailed Godwits, behaviour that does not seem to have been recorded.

We also noted that the bird had a narrow but distinct white tip to its tail, a feature recorded by Heather & Brathwaite (1985, page 192) for both the Hudsonian Godwit (*L. haemastica*) and *L. l. melanuroides* but by Falla *et al.* for Hudsonian only. Various foreign guides we consulted confirmed that both races of *L. limosa* also have a narrow white tail-tip.

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