

KERMADEC STORM PETREL

In October 1980, MV *Holmdale* was to relieve the personnel and to deliver stores to the station at Raoul Island. At Wellington I discussed with Peter Nesfield, who was to sail in the ship, the need to watch for the rarely reported Kermadec Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina albiclunis*).

At 1900 on 15 October 1980, when the ship was near Curtis Island, Peter was fortunate to get one of these birds on board. It was kept until the next day, when he photographed and released it. The distinctive white rump was immediately noticeable.

Previous records up to 1967 are given in Merton (1970, *Notornis* 17: 147-199). Subsequently it was reported by Jenkins (1980, *Notornis* 27: 97).

JOHN JENKINS



HUDSONIAN GODWIT IN FIJI

A Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) was seen by NJS at low tide on the sand and mud flats at Suva Point on 2 and 3 May 1981, and identification was confirmed by both of us on 9 May. This seems to be the first definite record for this wader for Fiji, although there were local reports of a black-tailed godwit seen at Suva Point in 1980.

On all occasions, the bird was associating with two or three Eastern Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) and we could closely compare the two species. The Hudsonian Godwit was about the same size as *L. lapponica* but seemed slightly more slender in build. It was in non-breeding plumage, with dull brown upperparts, darker and less mottled than the Bar-tailed Godwits. There was a distinct line of demarcation between the brown upper chest and the white underparts. The bill had a slight upward curvature towards the tip, was pink at the base and black tipped, and about twice as long as the width of the head. There was an indistinct pale eyestripe, less marked than in *L. lapponica*. In flight, the terminal black band on the tail and the white rump were conspicuous. There was a narrow but distinct white bar at the base of the primaries, and the underwing was blackish. Both the absence of a broad white wing-bar (Condon & McGill 1974) and the underwing colour (Falla *et al.* 1970) enable this species to be distinguished in the field from the Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa melanuroides*), which migrates regularly to the Australian region and with which we are both familiar.

The Hudsonian Godwit breeds in arctic Canada and perhaps locally in Alaska (Peterson 1961) and its main summering grounds in the southern hemisphere are in the southern third of South America. It seems, however, to be a regular summer visitor in small numbers to New Zealand (Falla *et al.* 1970, Condon & McGill 1974), where

it has been noted as "single birds attached to flocks of Bar-tailed Godwits."

Although it is too soon to be certain, the Hudsonian Godwit observed at Suva Point is probably overwintering in the southern hemisphere. Smart (1971) noted that the main passage at Suva seems to be over by the end of the first week of May, and certainly all godwits seen by us at this time are in non-breeding plumage. The possible migration route of this Hudsonian Godwit is still speculative, since there are no records elsewhere in Australasia and SE Asia (Slater 1970) and we are not aware of other published records for Pacific Islands, nor for the western rim of the Pacific.

LITERATURE CITED

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DUNDAS ISLAND, AUCKLAND ISLANDS, 1980

During the morning of 29 December 1980, a small party landed on Dundas Island from A. J. Black's *Acheron*. We were on the island for about one hour, and while the main reason for landing was to count the sea lions (*Phocarctos hookeri*), the following birds were noted.

GIANT PETREL *Macronectes halli*

Three well-grown chicks were in nests in the vegetation just above the beach, and six adults were on the beach among the sea lions.

AUCKLAND ISLAND TEAL *Anas aucklandica aucklandica*

Two birds seen on the beach.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Six were on the rocks near where we landed, and a flock of 50+ flew off the rocky beach on the south side of the island as we approached them.

SOUTHERN SKUA *Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*

In the sea lion rookery 62 were counted, and a further 20+ were spread around the island. No sign of nests or young birds.

SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus dominicanus*

A total of 24 birds was counted. Of these, only one was in brown juvenile plumage, five appeared to be 2-3 year olds and the rest were adults. No signs of breeding.