

may be made on the giant albatrosses, on fulmars like the Cape Pigeon (*Daption*) and Snow Petrel (*Pagodroma*), and also on the smaller albatrosses of the genus *Diomedea*.

JOHN WARHAM, *Zoology Dept., University of Canterbury, P.B. Christchurch.*

1. University of Canterbury Antipodes Island Expedition 1969, paper No. 10.



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

For the past six summers I have kept watch on a small group of sand islands situated inside the northern extremity of the Tauranga Harbour about half a mile from Bowentown Heads (see NZMS 1, Sheet N53, Paeroa, Square 34:58).

On 19 December 1974 I noticed a single godwit in company with a flock of 76 Pied Stilts (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). As I approached the bird flew, displaying the characteristic white rump and black tail of a Black-tailed Godwit, but I was unable to see the underwing pattern. During three subsequent visits, 28 December 1974 and 2 and 9 January 1975, I was unable to find the bird again. Also fruitless were visits to various likely coastal points (Tanners Point, Ongare Point and Kauri Point) where Pied Stilts are known to gather.

It was not until 15 January that I resighted what I believe was the same bird. The weather at 1105 hours was fine and clear, with excellent visibility. About 50 metres away, it was seen through a Bisley telescope at 40X magnification. A flock of 45 Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) was feeding between two sand islands on the flats exposed by the falling tide and with this flock was a single godwit which appeared paler and less mottled than a Bar-tailed Godwit. The white upper-tail coverts were particularly obvious. Later a small group of Bar-tailed Godwits alighted near this bird and I was able to make some useful comparisons. It was about the same size as the male Bar-tails, but its upper parts were greyer and less speckled. Having examined the bird carefully for about ten minutes, I decided to flush it; the gleaming white underwing characteristic of an Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa melanuroides*) showed up very clearly (Fig. 1). It landed about 50 metres away and after an hour and a half eventually flew off alone, heading north-east across the bay towards the now exposed mud-flats.

The godwit could not be found on further visits to the islands. Published records indicate that this is the first sighting of an Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit in the Bay of Plenty.

GEOFFREY N. L. ARNOLD, 4/23 Gardner Road, Epsom, Auckland 3

ASIATIC BLACK TAILED GODWIT

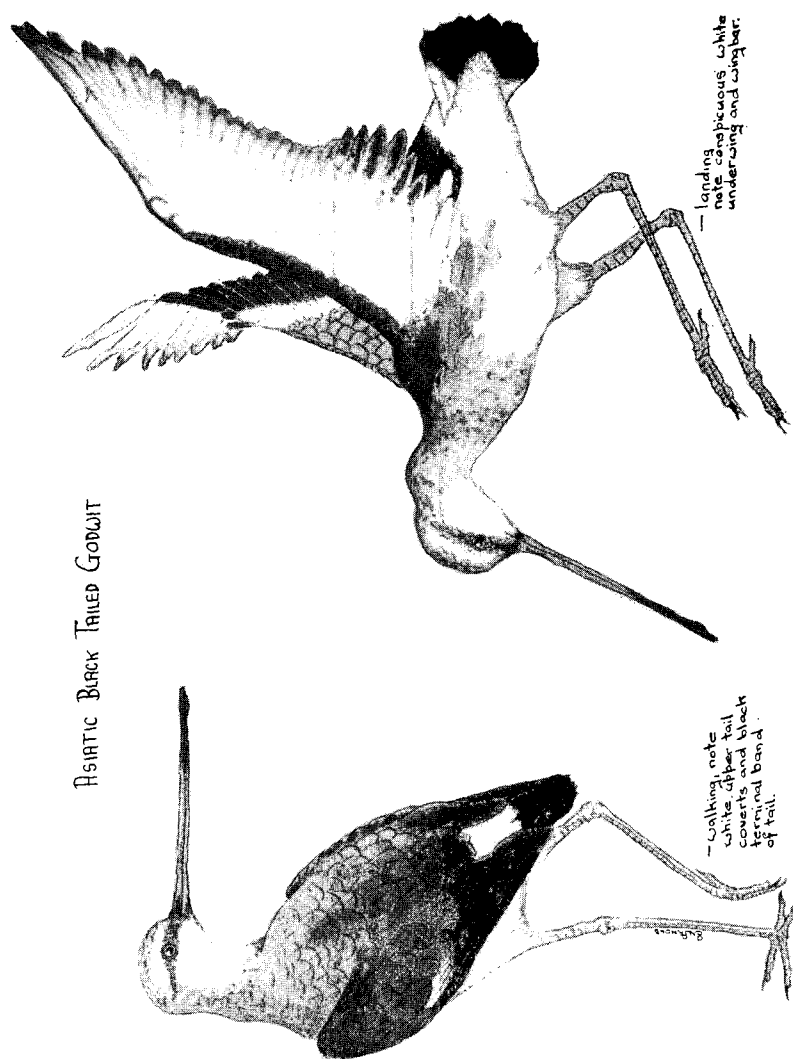


FIGURE 1 — Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa melanuroides*, Tauranga Harbour, January 1975.