

## 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