

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa limosa

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

L.l. melanuroides

Black-tailed Godwits breed throughout the Palearctic and winter S to e. Africa and Australia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Cramp and Simmons 1983, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). They are casual in migration in the W. Aleutian Is, migrate through and winter regularly in Micronesia E to the Marshall Is (Schipper 1985, Wiles 2005). A single individual has been recorded in the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands*.

Two ecotour groups independently found and identified a first-fall Black-tailed Godwit at Kanaha Pond, **Maui**, 26 and 27 Oct 2000 ([HRBP](#) 1273-1277, published *NAB* 55:234). It was observed there through 7 Dec when videotaped but had crossed the island to Kealia NWR by 16 Dec. It was observed at Kealia through 27 Dec but had appeared at the Ki'i Unit of JCNWR, **O'ahu**, by 6 Jan 2001, involving an interesting mid-winter migration of ~160 km (*NAB* 55:234; [HRBP](#) 5965). The godwit over-summered at Ki'i, remaining in winter plumage through the following spring. It was last seen on 23 Apr 2002, by which time it had acquired full alternate plumage and was showing the characters of the expected Asian subspecies *L.l. melanuroides*.

Another godwit, either a Black-tailed or a Hudsonian Godwit, was observed on O'ahu in 1975 (see [Hudsonian Godwit](#)). Two Black-taileds reported on O'ahu on [DOFAW Waterbird Surveys](#) at Pouhala Marsh 20 Aug 2003 and at Fort Kamehameha Flats 21 Jan 2004 are unsubstantiated, and could represent [Bar-tailed Godwits](#), although none of these were reported from these locations at these times.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>