

**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

The Bar-tailed Godwit is primarily a species of the Old World. Though it breeds on the coasts of western Alaska, its migration crosses mainly the western half of the Pacific Ocean. In California it is casual, recorded 28 times through 2002, mainly in the northern half of the state. In San Diego County there are only two well-supported records.

**Migration:** San Diego County's first Bar-tailed Godwit was on the beach at the Hotel del Coronado (T9) 4–27 November 1981, where it foraged with turnstones in the kelp washed ashore (B. Shear; Binford 1985). The second was in the flood-control channel at the mouth of the San Diego River (R7) 4–5 September 2000 (J. A. Martin; McKee and Erickson 2002); both identifications were supported with photographs.



*Photo by Anthony Mercieca*

**Taxonomy:** Even in the lack of specimens the birds in San Diego County were identifiable as the east Siberian and Alaskan subspecies *L. l. baueri* Naumann, 1836, by their mostly brown axillars and barred lower backs.