

**BAR-TAILED GODWITS AND  
OTHER WADERS**

By BRIAN GLOVER

On September 3, 1949, a visit was made to the Murray Mouth. On a small mud-flat about one mile upstream from the mouth 9 waders were seen, which from their size and length of bill were obviously Godwits.

The birds allowed of quite close approach and were examined from within 20 yards. The bill was very long and straight—no upward curvature was noticed. The back, wings, head and throat were greyish-brown; the lower abdomen whitish.

On being flushed, the birds circled the area for about three minutes before making off. In flight the rump appeared dull white, similar to that of the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). A satisfactory view of the tail was not obtained; it appeared slightly darker than the rump, but was definitely not black. There was no white wing-stripe. No call was heard.

Thus the birds were considered to be the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

Other Charadriiformes noted in the vicinity were:

Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)—Three near the Godwits.

Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*)—Several seen, both above and below the Barrage.

Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*)—Three on the ocean beach.

Red-capped Dotterel (*Ch. ruficapillus*)—Fairly plentiful on the beach and along the river below the Barrage.

Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)—Four near the Godwits.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)—Three on swampy ground above the Barrage.

Red-necked Stint (*Erolia ruficollis*)—A flock of 20 on the beach, and a very large flock (approx. 400), half-mile inside the river mouth. Numerous small flocks between the mouth and the Barrage.