

First record of the Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758) for the Brazilian mainland

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RESUMO. Primeiro registro do fuselo, *Limosa lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758), no Brasil continental. O fuselo (*Limosa lapponica*) é um maçarico incomum na América do Sul, sendo originário da região paleártica e Alasca. Os raros registros brasileiros são todos insulares e, em grande parte, não documentados. Dois registros fotográficos da espécie foram efetuados em 26 de março e 10 de novembro de 2006, ambos no município de Icapuí, Estado do Ceará, e constituem os primeiros registros no Brasil continental.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Limosa lapponica*, fuselo, distribuição, Brasil, Ceará.

KEY WORDS: *Limosa lapponica*, Bar-tailed Godwit, distribution, Brazil, Ceará.

The Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) nests in the Arctic from Scandinavia to Alaska, and is widespread on coasts (almost everywhere except the Americas) as a non-breeding visitor (Hayman *et al.* 1991). The first record of the Bar-tailed Godwit in South America was on 17 November 1985, at the Chacopata lagoon (10°41'N, 63°46'W), Sucre, Northeastern Venezuela, where a single individual was photographed and remained until April 1986, following groups of Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) (Mercier *et al.* 1987).

Until very recently, only three sightings of this species had been reported for Brazil, all in offshore environments. The first one, also involving a single individual, took place on 16 December 1988 at Leão Beach, Fernando de Noronha Island (3°51'S, 32°25'W), c.400 km from the continent (Antas *et al.* 1992). The species was seen again on the same island in November 1996 (Schulz-Neto 1998). The other locality in Brazil where the Bar-tailed Godwit was recorded is Rocas Atoll (3°51'S, 33°49'W), about 150 km from Fernando de Noronha and 250 km from the Brazilian mainland, where two individuals were sighted between February and March 1990 (Antas *et al.* 1992). In addition, two new records of the Bar-tailed Godwit from Fernando de Noronha came to light recently, including one of a bird photographed at Sueste Beach in December 2004, which represents the first documented record for Brazil (see Silva e Silva and Olmos 2006, in this issue).

On 25 March 2006 a single Bar-tailed Godwit was observed with a group of about thirty Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*) on the Cajuais Bank (4°41'S, 37°21'W), the largest intertidal platform in the state of Ceará (northeastern Brazil), in the municipality of Icapuí. The bird was standing on the ground, hiding its beak in the plumage, not allowing a conclusive identification. The following day, during the next

low tide, an effort was made to search, identify and photograph the bird (Figure 1A).

When seen again on the next day, the bird had moved about 2 km westward along the outer edge of the tidal flat, and since the intertidal platform was thoroughly scanned with spotting scopes, we assumed it was the same individual. The bird was feeding among a group of Black-bellied Plovers, although they were more scattered and active this time. One particular plover was following the godwit, clearly interested in the +25cm long worms it was retrieving by probing the muddy sediment.

After several non-systematic assessments in the same tidal flat, another single individual was sighted (Figure 1B) on 10 November 2006. These sightings, coupled with the records mentioned above, may indicate a need to reevaluate the vagrant status of the Bar-tailed Godwit in Brazil.

Both godwits were identifiable as the European subspecies *Limosa lapponica lapponica* (Linnaeus, 1758) by its prominent white back and rump, the lack of obvious wingbars, and the toes slightly projecting beyond the tail (Hayman *et al.* 1991). Color versions of the photographs will be published in the site of the Brazilian Ornithological Records Committee (<http://www.cbro.org.br>) as supplementary documentation for the records.

Besides being the second Brazilian record to be documented by photographs (see above), this is also the first record of the Bar-tailed Godwit for the country's mainland, since the previous sightings were on offshore islands. The authors have also found 16 other species of migratory shorebirds associated to the Cajuais Bank, and a recent record of the Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), the first one for Brazil, was made there (Girão *et al.* 2006, in this issue), indicating that this intertidal platform may be an interesting site for the research of marine and shore birds.

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Figure 1. A) Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) in flight at Icapuí, Ceará in March 26, 2006 (photo by A. Campos). B) The same species, also at Icapuí, in November 10, 2006 (photo by C. Albano).