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First Florida Record of the Black-tailed Godwit

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The pelican carried a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service leg-band No. 559-03057. It was banded as a Hatching Year bird on 17 July 1980 at Isle Aux Petre, St. Bernard, Louisiana by personnel of the Louisiana Game and Fish Commission. Ronald Reynolds of the Bird-Banding Laboratory kindly supplied the information on this banded bird.—THOMAS L. FRANCIS, *Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, 4415 Thomas Drive, Panama City, Florida 32407.*

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First Florida record of the Black-tailed Godwit.—On 15 February 1981, we saw a Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) in an impoundment at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard County, Florida. From a distance of 46 m and through a 15x spotting scope we noted the following field marks: the long, straight bill with orange base; the unmarked, light grey back; the light grey wings with some scalloping; the light buff of the head, neck, and breast; the wide, white wing stripe; the white underwings with white axillars. The last two characteristics were evident when the bird flew and are the important field marks that distinguish the Black-tailed from the Hudsonian Godwit (*L. haemastica*) (Baird 1968, *Auk* 85: 500-501; Tove and Hughes 1981, *Chat* 45: 13-14). Subsequently, many observers saw the bird and on 17 February Paul W. Sykes, Jr., and C. Wesley Biggs photographed it (Fig. 1).

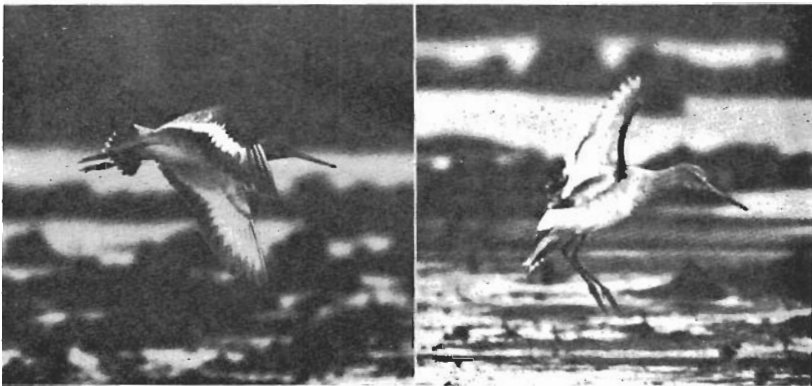


Fig. 1. Black-tailed Godwit at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard Co., Florida, 17 February 1981. Photo by Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

This sighting is the first for Florida (Bowman 1978, FOS Spec. Publ. No. 1; Stevenson 1976, *Vertebrates of Florida*, Gainesville, Univ. Presses of Florida). The five previous United States records of this Eurasian species are from the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to North Carolina (Tove and Hughes 1981).—HOWARD P. LANGRIDGE, *1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, Florida 33462* AND TADZIU TROTSKY, *1782 18th Ave., N., Lake Worth, Florida 33460.*