



Eastern bar-tailed godwit

Limosa lapponica baueri

40 cm

This large brown-and-grey wader is also known as kuaka. It has long legs and a long, slightly up-curved bill. Females are bigger than males, and have longer bills. Birds often begin to show red breeding plumage towards the end of our summer, before departure from New Zealand to their breeding grounds in Alaska and northeast Siberia. At least 300 godwits regularly visit the Chatham Islands over the summer months, mainly around the eastern margins of Te Whanga Lagoon.



Eastern bar-tailed godwits in
non-breeding plumage.

Photo: Dick Veitch (DOC).