

Meissner W., Ściborski M. 2002. *Autumn migration of the Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) in the Gulf of Gdańsk region*. Ring 24, 1: 3-15.

Abstract

Regular counts and catching of migrating Bar-tailed Godwits were conducted at the Gulf of Gdańsk in years 1984-2000. The migration of adult birds lasted from mid-July to mid-September with a peak in the second decade of July. At the beginning, females were more numerous than males, then on the turn of July males outnumbered females. The proportion of females increased again in the second half of August and decreased in September. First young Bar-tailed Godwits arrived in small number in the third decade of July, but their regular migration started in mid-August (single young birds were seen until the end of November). The total numbers of migrants differed between seasons, reaching highest values every third year, which may have corresponded with lemming cycles on breeding grounds of the species. Low numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits stopping at the Gulf of Gdańsk coast together with short length of stay and low number of retraps of adult birds proved that southern coast of the Baltic Sea was only an emergency stopover site for this species. Values of adults measurements were generally larger than those of juveniles what is connected with growth process still lasting in young birds. Within each age group bimodality was noticed due to sexual dimorphism - females were significantly larger than males. Data on axillaries pattern and phenology of migration suggest that two different breeding populations of *L. l. lapponica* - north-European and west-Siberian - migrate through the study area. Measurements of two Bar-tailed Godwits over-ranged the nominate *L. l. lapponica* subspecies ranges, suggesting *L. l. mezenbieri*.

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