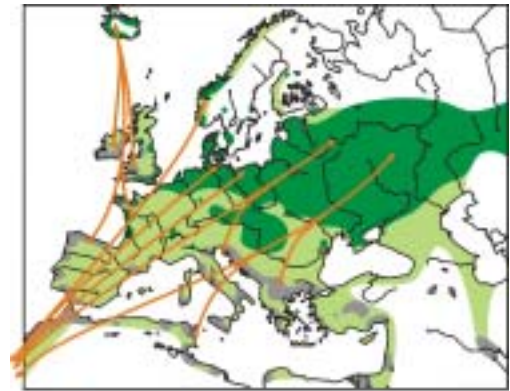


## Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) movements

This species breeds from Iceland and northern Scotland eastwards to western Siberia, and south to northern Spain and Italy. Isolated breeding populations of Black-tailed Godwits also exist further east in Siberia and China. There are three subspecies, with the nominate (*limosa*) breeding across western Europe, mainly in the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and to the east. *L. l. islandica*, breeds largely in Iceland, although there are a few pairs in Scotland and Norway and *L. l. melanuroides* breeds in eastern Siberia. Black-tailed Godwits are migratory and winter in temperate as well as tropical areas.



Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
Distribution Map: Bauer, Bezzel & Fiedler 2006, AULA-Verlag

Black-tailed Godwits are only ringed in large numbers in a few countries in Europe and the majority of the recoveries are of birds ringed in the Netherlands and Britain & Ireland. Recoveries during winter (December-January) are found in western and southwestern Europe, in Morocco and in West Africa. There are a few recoveries from further east in Africa, in Mali and Chad. Birds from eastern Europe and western Russia are presumed to winter mainly in east central Africa and partly in the eastern Mediterranean. Black-tailed Godwits breeding in eastern Siberia (*L. l. melanuroides*) winter in an area from India to Taiwan and the Philippines and south to Australia. The subspecies breeding in Iceland (*L. l. islandica*) winters mainly in Britain & Ireland, but some continue to western and southwestern Europe. Recoveries show that some birds, probably non-breeding immature birds, regularly stay in West Africa during the summer. Spring migration from Africa starts in February and the return migration seems to be broad-fronted with birds moving through Italy more regularly than during autumn, with a maximum in March. Iceland and the Netherlands are reached in April and breeding sites further north and east in May. The autumn migration starts in July and the number of recoveries in West Africa increases in August, but it is unclear whether this is due to birds arriving from north.

**Figure 1:** Map depicting the movements of Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

**Table 1.** Summary of the movements of Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) from the literature based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

**Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)**

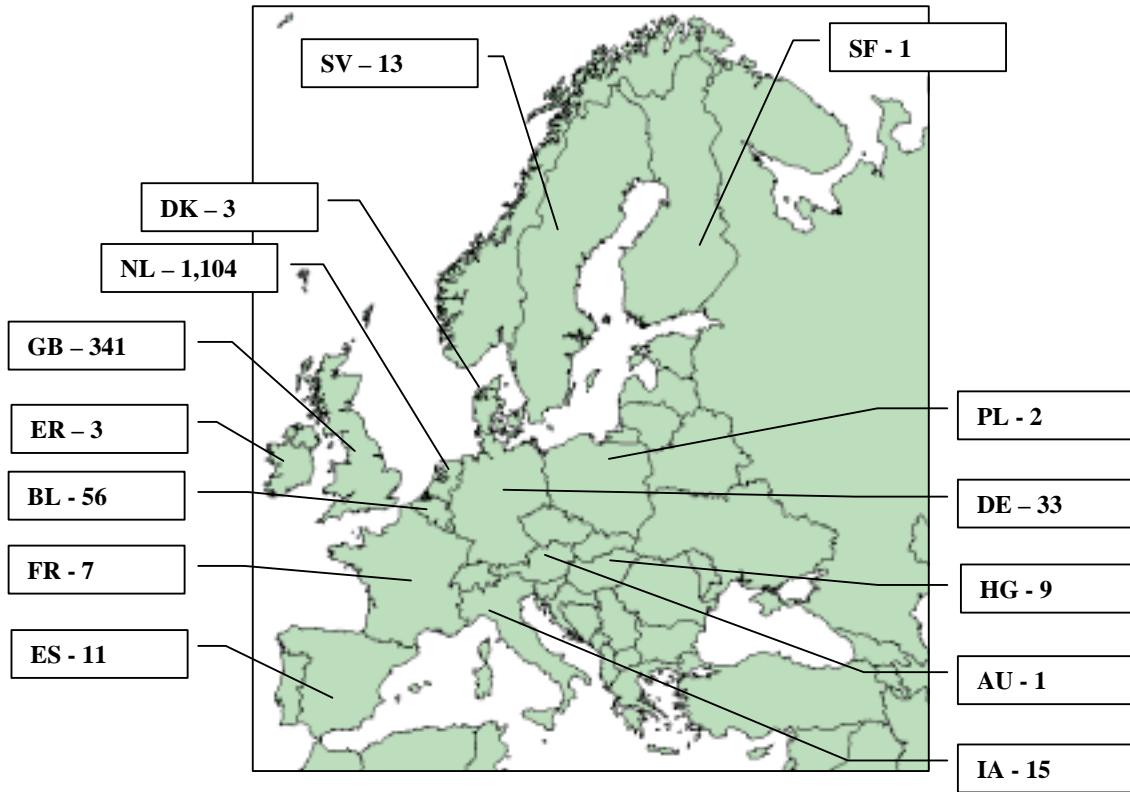
**Distribution:** from Iceland and UK to eastern and western Siberia; southernmost breeding areas in N-Italy and N-Spain. Isolated populations from central Siberia to China.

**Moult:** postnuptial moult starts in breeding grounds, is interrupted during migration and finished in the wintering areas; no obvious moult migration.

Population or part of population	Autumn Migration		Wintering/Non-breeding Grounds		Spring Migration		References
	Direction/via	during	location	during	Direction/via	during	
<b>subspecies L.I. islandica</b>							
Iceland			UK, Ireland, western Europe, southwards to Spain				1, 3
Western Norway, Northern Scotland			UK, Ireland, western Europe, southwards to Spain				1
<b>subspecies L.I. limosa</b>							
Western and Central Europe	France, Iberian Peninsula, western Mediterranean, Senegal	July to September, latest birds in November	from northwestern Morocco (mainly adult birds) southwards to Sahel and Gulf of Guinea, along Senegal, Gambia, and Niger rivers (mainly immatures)	August to January	Maghreb, central Mediterranean (Italy); more broad-fronted than in autumn	early February until March	1, 2, 3, 5
							1
<b>subspecies L.I. melanuroides</b>							
eastern Siberia			from Bay of Bengal to Taiwan and Philippines and south to Australia				3

References consulted in drawing up the movement summary tables. Number in tables indicate which reference was used in drawing up each line of data in the tables.

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**Figure 2.** Country of ringing and numbers of recoveries of birds featured in maps of finding locations - Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).