List of Terns, Noddies & Skimmers with References

Compiled by Joe Hobbs
### Introduction
This is the final version of the Tern’s list, no further updates will be made. Grateful thanks to Aidan G. Kelly (https://twitter.com/agk10k) and Dermot Breen (http://dermotbreen.blogspot.com/) for the cover images and all those who responded with constructive feedback. All images © the photographers. Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are not exhaustive and are best employed in conjunction with other sources.
Joe Hobbs

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### Final Version
Version 1.7 (February 2019).

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Relevant Publications


General Notes


Brown Noddy
*Anous stolidus* [Linnaeus].

[A.s. *stolidus*] Bahamas, Florida & Dry Tortugas (USA) and West Indies W to islands off Yucatan (E Mexico) and S & E to Alacran Reef & Isla San Andres (Belize), Octavia Rocks & Gorgona Island (Colombia), Las Aves to Margarita (Venezuela), Trinidad & Tobago, Guiana & NE Bahia (Brazil) and Trindade, Ascension Island, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Inaccessible Island & Gough Islands (S Atlantic) and the Gulf of Guinea from Guinea E to Cameroon.

[A.s. *pileatus*] S Red Sea & the Gulf of Aden S to islands off Sudan, Somalia & Kenya and Madagascar, Comores, Mascarene Islands, Seychelles, Aldabra Atoll, Laccadive Islands (Indian Ocean) and Nias & Belitung (off Sumatra) to Ryukyu Islands & Bonin / Ogasawara Islands (Japan region) and Houtman Abrolhos Group, Bedout & Laccadive Island (Western Australia), Ashmore Reefs (Timor Sea), Bramble Cay (Torres Strait) S to offshore cays off Cairns (Queensland), Lady Elliot Island, Musgrave Island & Michaelmas Cay (Great Barrier Reef islands), islands in the Coral Sea and Lord Howe Island & Norfolk Island (Tasman Sea) and Fiji, Eua & Kalau Island (Tonga) and S Polynesia E to Sala-y-Gomez (Easter Island region) & Easter Island and Kure E to Moku Manu and Manana (Hawaii). It is also possible this is the form occurring on the Desventuradas Islands (E Pacific off Chile).

[A.s. *galapagensis*] Galapagos Islands.

[A.s. *ridgwayi*] Revillagigedo Archipelago, Socorro Island, Tres Marias Island & Isabella Island (all off W Mexico) S to Costa Rica & Cocos Island.

Non-breeding: Disperses to sea.

Other names: Common Noddy, Noddy Tern.

Robert Ridgway (1850-1929), American ornithologist and Smithsonian Curator of Birds from 1880 to 1929.

1st WP Record: Early in October 1912. Wadden Sea, near Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Killed (Paulsen 1925).


**Lesser Noddy**

*Anous tenuirostris* [Temminck].


[A.t. melanops] Pelsart Island & Wooded Island (Houtman Abrohos Group, W Australia). Largely sedentary although storm driven as far S as Freemantle on occasion. Considered conspecific with Black Noddy by some.

Other name: Sooty Noddy.


Córdoba, B.C. Congdon, H. Chiba, M. Brooke, A. Beaman, M. Barnes, A. & Hill, G.J.E. Barbieri, E. Dean Conant Worcester

Other name: White

Considered conspecific with Lesser Noddy by some.

Anous minutus

Black Noddy

Anous minutus [Boie].

[A.m. minutus] New Guinea and Capricorn & Bunker group of islands (S Great Barrier Reef) and probably Quoin Island (Great Barrier Reef), Darnley Island (E Torres Strait), islands in the Coral Sea, Norfolk Island (Tasman Sea), Fiji & Kalau (Tonga) to the Tuamotu Archipelago (French Polynesia).

[A.m. worcester] Cavill Island & Tubbataha Reef (Sulu Sea, SW Philippines), Belitung (off Sumatra) & Borneo.

[A.m. marcus] Philippines, Palau and Marcus Island & Wake Island (NW Pacific) E thru Micronesia to the Caroline Islands (W Pacific).

[A.m. melanogenys] Hawaiian Islands.

[A.m. diamesus] Clipperton Island & Cocos Island (Costa Rica region, E Pacific).

[A.m. americanus] The Lesser Antilles and coasts of the Caribbean including islands off Central America & Venezuela.

[A.m. atlanticus] St. Peter and St. Paul's Rocks, Fernando de Noronha, Ascension Island, St. Helena (S Atlantic) and Gulf of Guinea.

Non-breeding: Some forms rarely sedentary while others disperse pelagically.

Considered conspecific with Lesser Noddy by some.

Other name: White-capped Noddy.

Dean Conant Worcester (1866-1924), American botanist, zoologist, explorer and collector.


Blue Noddy

Procelsterna ceruleus [F.D. Bennett].


[P.c. neboxii] Tuvalu (SW Pacific) E to Phoenix Islands (Kiribati) and S to Fiji & Western Samoa.

[P.c. teretirostris] Tuamotu Archipelago (French Polynesia) and probably the Cook Islands, Austral Islands & Society Islands (French Polynesia, SC Pacific).


Non-breeding: Largely sedentary with some dispersing to E Australia.

Other name: Blue Ternlet, Blue-grey Ternlet, Blue-grey Noddy.

Robert Cushman Murphy (1887-1973), American naturalist.
Grey Noddy
Procelsterna albivitta [Bonaparte].
[P. a. albivitta] Bay of Plenty (N North Island, New Zealand), Lord Howe Island & Norfolk Island (Tasman Sea, Australia region), Kermadec Islands (SW Pacific) & Ata and probably Eua (Tonga).
[P. a. skottsbergii] Henderson Island (Pitcairn group, C Pacific) and Sala-y-Gomez (Easter Island region) & Easter Island.
[P. a. imitatrix] San Ambrosio & San Félix (Desventurada Islands, Chile).
Non-breeding: Largely sedentary, occasionally reaching New Zealand.
Previously regarded as a pale morph of Blue Noddy.
Other name: Grey Ternlet.


White Tern
Gygis alba [Sparrman].
[G. a. alba] Fernando de Noronha, Trindade, Martin Vas Rocks, Ascension Island & St. Helena (S. Atlantic) and Clipperton Islands (off W Mexico) & Cocos Island (off Costa Rica) and Galápagos Islands S to Malpelo Island (off Colombia), Sala-y-Gomez (Easter Island region) & Easter Island and Ne Bahia (E Brazil) and Laysan Island & Kure E to Kaua (W. Hawaiian Islands) and Honolulu and Paracel Islands (South China Sea) E to Wuvulu, Ninigo & Tench Island (Bismarck Archipelago) and Line Islands & Phoenix Islands (C Pacific), Caroline Islands (W Pacific), Kermadec Islands (SW Pacific), Marshall Islands (NC Pacific) & Norfolk Island (Tasman Sea, Australia region).
[G. a. candida] Madagascar, Mascarene Islands, Comoros Islands, Seychelles & Chagos Islands (Indian Ocean) E to Tonga, Western Samoa & Society Islands (SC Pacific). It is also possible this is the form occurring on Hatutu (Marquesas Islands, N French Polynesia, C Pacific).
[G. a. microrhyncha] Eiao to Fatu Hiva Island (Marquesas Islands). It is also possible this is the form occurring on Hatutu (Marquesas Islands).
Non-breeding: Sedentary at some locations or disperses pelagically from others.
Other names: Fairy Tern, Little White Tern (microrhyncha).

Mayo, Ireland on 30th August 2012 may well
1st WP record: A Skimmer sp. that was observed flying south about 700m off Annagh Head, Co.

Black Skimmer

*Rynchops niger* [Linnaeus]

-*R.n. niger* Coasts of S California and coasts from Massachusetts S to Texas and Sonora to Nayarit (W Mexico) and Tamaulipas to Yucatán Peninsula (E Mexico). Non-breeding: California & North Carolina S thru C America to both coasts of Panama.

-*R.n. cinerascens* Coasts of Colombia S to the mouth of the Amazon and Gulf of Guayaquil (W Ecuador) and large river systems (especially the Orinoco and Amazon) S to Bolivia & NW Argentina. Non-breeding: On the coast from Ecuador to S Chile and Panama to Trinidad & NC Brazil.

-*G.n. intercedens* The large rivers of N Brazil, E Paraguay, Uruguay & NE Argentina S to Bahía Blanca. Non-breeding: Disperses to the coast.

1st WP record: A Skimmer sp. that was observed flying south about 700m off Annagh Head, Co. Mayo, Ireland on 30th August 2012 may well have been this species. Not published.


African Skimmer
*Rynchops flavirostris* [Vieillot].
Major rivers and lakes of Africa S of the Sahara from Senegal to Sudan & SW Ethiopia and S to extreme N Namibia, N Botswana, basin of R Zambezi & S Mozambique. Non-breeding: Area around the basin of the R Gambia and Egyptian stretches of the Nile.


Indian Skimmer
*Rynchops albicollis* [Swainson].
R Indus (Pakistan) thru N & EC India to Assam, Bangladesh & R Irrawaddy (Myanmar) and R Mekong (Cambodia) and possibly Nepal & S Laos. Non-breeding: Some seasonal movement along rivers and possibly Bangladesh.

Gull-billed Tern

*Gelochelidon nilotica* [Gmelin].

[G.*n. nilotica*] Europe S to Mauritania & Tunisia and E thru the Middle East, Kazakhstan & Indian Subcontinent to NW China. Non-breeding: NW & E Africa thru Persian Gulf to India.

[G.*n. affinis*] Transbaikalia, Manchuria and Fuzhou & Hainan (E China). Non-breeding: Mainly SE Asia with some to N Australia.

[G.*n. macrotarsa*] Sparsely throughout Australia & its offshore islands. Non-breeding: Highly nomadic.

[G.*n. aranea*] New Jersey S to Florida and W along the Gulf coast to Texas and Great Inagua & Harbour Island (Bahamas), Cuba, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands. Non-breeding: Coasts of C America S to Peru & Brazil.

[G.*n. vanrossemi*] Salton Sea (California) S thru W Mexico along the coasts of Sonora & Sinaloa and probably islands in the Gulf of California. Non-breeding: S to Ecuador.

[G.*n. gronvoldi*] Coast and river valleys of Cayenne (French Guiana), Bahia & Mexicana Islands in the mouth of the Amazon (E & SE Brazil) S to Uruguay & NE Argentina S to Buenos Aires.

Birds breeding along the coasts of Ecuador and N Peru may be *vanrossemi* or *gronvoldi* or an, as yet, undescribed race.

Note: *G.n. affinis* is a synonym of *G.n. addenda*.

Other name: Van Rossem’s Gull (*vanrossemi*).

Adriaan Joseph van Rossem (1892-1949), American ornithologist and Curator of the Dickey Collection at UCLA from 1940 to 1949.


Caspian Tern

**Hydroprogne caspia** [Pallas].

Locally from Washington (USA), NE Alberta, S Mackenzie & C Saskatchewan E to Newfoundland (Canada) and S to Baja California & Sinaloa (W Mexico), also Great Lakes region, NE New York and S along Atlantic coast to Florida & Gulf coast to Texas and locally in S Scandinavia, Baltic Sea & Estonia and Black Sea & Turkey to NW Iran, S Russia and Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Kirghiz steppes to N Mongolia & S Siberia to coastal Liaoning to Kwantung (E China), Taiwan, Hainan, Mekong Delta (Vietnam) and Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, N Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Madagascar, Comores, Aldabra Atoll & Seychelles and Red Sea & Persian Gulf E to Sind (Pakistan) & Sri Lanka and Australia & New Zealand. Non-breeding: Disperses widely.

Other name: Taranui (Maori).


**Royal Tern**

*Thalasseus maximus* [Boddart].

[T. m. maximus] S California & Maryland S to Texas. West Indies to Guianas. Non-breeding: S to Peru, Uruguay & Argentina.


Gernigon, J. 2008. Première mention française de la Sterne royale (Sterna maxima), au banc d'Arguin (Gironde) [First French record of Royal Tern at banc d'Arguin (Gironde)]. Ornithos 15(3): 224-225.


Crested Tern

Thalasseus bergii [Lichtenstein].


[T.b. thalassinus] Tanzania, Seychelles, Aldabra Atoll & Rodrigues Island (Mascarene Islands). It is also possible this is the form in NW Madagascar. Non-breeding: Some movement to S Somalia.


[T.b. cristatus] SE China and Malaysia to the Philippines, Ryukyu Islands, Bonin or Ogasawara Islands, Taiwan and E & S Australia & Tasmania and islands in SW Pacific to Micronesia, Kiribati (C Pacific) & Society Islands (French Polynesia) and S to Polynesia and E to Tuamotu Archipelago (French Polynesia).

The proposed form enigma is included with the nominate.

Other names: Swift Tern, Great Crested Tern, Greater Crested Tern.

Carl Heinrich Bergius (c.1790-1818), German/Prussian pharmacist, botanist and naturalist who collected in South Africa. He earned the Iron Cross while serving as a cavalryman in the Prussian campaign of the Napoleonic Wars.


**Lesser Crested Tern**

*Thalasseus bengalensis* [Lesson].


[T.b. torresii] Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean coast of Pakistan, Maldives & Laccadive Islands E to the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java & Sulawesi to New Guinea, Aru Islands (E Indonesia) and Bedout & Adele Island (W Australia) to Capricorn & Bunker group of islands (S Great Barrier Reef). Non-breeding: N Indian Ocean & SW Pacific.


Heinrich Agathon Bernstein counted in the tens. A Crested Tern colony on Matsu Island in the Taiwan Strait. The total world population is probably presumed to be extinct until four adults and four chicks were found by Liang Chieh-teh in 2000 among a Crested Tern colony on Matsu Island in the Taiwan Strait. The total world population is probably counted in the tens.

Heinrich Agathon Bernstein (1828-1865), German physician, zoologist and collector.


Sandwich Tern

*Thalasseus sandvicensis* [Latham].

Ireland, Britain & S Scandinavia S to the Mediterranean and E to the Black Sea & Caspian Sea. Non-breeding: Caspian Sea, Black Sea & Mediterranean S to coasts of W & S Africa and S Red Sea to NW India & Sri Lanka.


Cabot’s Tern

*Thalasseus acuflavidus* [Cabot].

[T.a. acuflavidus] Virginia (E USA) locally to Campeche Bank (Gulf of Mexico) & Belize and thru the Antilles to S Caribbean. Non-breeding: Caribbean S to S Peru & Uruguay.

[T.a. eurygnatha] Locally in Caribbean, off Venezuela & Cayenne (French Guiana) and E Brazil to Buenos Aires (S Argentina) and Patagonian coast of Chubut and Santa Cruz.

Other name: Cayenne Tern (*eurygnatha)*.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as races of Sandwich Tern.

Samuel Cabot (1815-1885), American medical doctor and one time curator of ornithology at the Boston Society of Natural History.


Elegant Tern

*Thalasseus elegans* [Gambel].

San Diego Bay (S California), Scammon Lagoon & Isla San Roques (C Baja California), Raza Island, Trinidad Island & George Island (Gulf of California) and S along W coast of Mexico to Nayarit. Non-breeding: California S thru C America to Peru, Ecuador & Mejillones Bay (Chile).

1st WP Record: 1st June 1974. Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France. One or some times two in a colony of Sandwich Terns (Dubois & CHN 1994).


Little Tern

*Sternula albifrons* [Pallas].

[S.a. albifrons] Ireland, Britain & S Scandinavia across C & SE Russia, W Siberia & W Mongolia and S to the Mediterranean basin and coast of N Africa & the Persian Gulf and Turkey E to NE India, Nepal, Myanmar & islands off Sumatra & Java. It is also possible this is the form at Lake Turkana, Kenya and the Seychelles, Comoro Islands & Sri Lanka. Non-breeding: Coasts of N & W Africa E to NW India.

[S.a. guineae] Ghana, Nigeria and Chad to Gabon. It is also possible this is the form in Mauritania & Senegambia.

[S.a. sinensis] SE Russia, China, Japan, SE Asia, Philippines & New Guinea. It is also possible this is the form in Saipan (Micronesia) E to Hawaii and New Britain & surrounding waters, N & E Australia & E Tasmania. Non-breeding: N populations mostly move S to Malaysia.

The proposed forms *inominata* & *pusilla* are included with *S.a. albifrons*.

The proposed form *placens* is included with *S.a. sinensis*.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sternula albifrons*.


Sternula saundersi

Saunders's Tern

Stremsa Saundersii [Hume].

Fragmented and local throughout Red Sea S along the coast to Djibouti & Somalia and Persian Gulf, Iran, Pakistan, NW India and Addu Atoll (Maldives) & Amirante Islands (Seychelles). Non-breeding: Red Sea S to Tanzania & Madagascar and E to India & the Malay peninsula.

Other name: Black-shafted Tern.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as Sterna Saundersi.

Howard Saunders (1835-1907), British ornithologist and Secretary of the BOU from 1901 to 1907. He was co-editor of the fifth and seventh volumes of 'Ibis'.


**Least Tern**

*Sternula antillarum* [Lesson].
[S.a. athalassos] Inland rivers of the N Great Plains in E Montana, SC North Dakota, W Iowa, SW Missouri, NW Indiana, C Kentucky, NW Ohio S to C New Mexico, SE Colorado, W Kansas, C Oklahoma, NE Texas, NC Louisiana & W Tennessee. Non-breeding: S to Bahia (N Brazil).
[S.a. browni] San Francisco Bay S to Baja and Sonora & Sinaloa (W Mexico). Non-breeding: Central America.

Treated as monotypic by Draheim et al. 2010.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as Sterna antillarum.


Yellow-billed Tern
*Sternula superciliaris* [Vieillot].
Colombia & Venezuela E to Guyana, Surinam & Guiana and thru the Amazon Basin of Bahia (N Brazil) to N & E Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay & NE Argentina and S to the Rio de la Plata & NE Buenos Aires. Non-breeding: Probably following river courses to the coasts of South America. Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sternula superciliaris*. Other name: Amazon Tern.


Peruvian Tern
*Sternula lorata* [Philippi & Landbeck].
Gulf of Guayaquil (Ecuador) S to Peru & N Chile in the Humboldt Current. Non-breeding: Not fully established. Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sternula antillarum*.


Fairy Tern

*Sternula nereis* [Gould].

[S.n. nereis] Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria & Tasmania.


[S.n. exsul] New Caledonia (SW Pacific).

Non-breeding: Some of populations in Tasmania & W Australia move N.

The proposed form *horni* is included with *S.n. nereis*.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as *Sterna neris*.


Damara Tern

*Sternula balaenarum* [Strickland].


Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as *Sterna balaenarum*.


**Aleutian Tern**

*Onychoprion aleuticus* [Baird].

Hokkaido (Japan) and Sakhalin Island N thru the Sea of Okhotsk & Kamchatka to the Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea and Cape Krusenstern & Kotzebue Sound (N Alaska) S to Aleutian Islands as far W as Attu and E to Copper River Delta, Dry Bay & Kodiak Island (Alaska). Non-breeding: Not fully established but some to vicinity of South China Sea.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sterna aleutica*.


Grey-backed Tern
Onychoprion lunatus [Peale].
Guguan & Anatahan (North Mariana Islands, W Pacific) E to Wake Island (NW Pacific), N Marshall Islands (NC Pacific) & Johnston Atoll (N Pacific) and Kure E to Kaula & Moku Manu (Hawaiian Islands) and S thru the Line Islands & Phoenix Islands (Kiribati, C Pacific) to Fiji and E to Austral Islands & Tuamoto Archipelago (French Polynesia). Possibly Samoa & Society Islands (SC Pacific). Non-breeding: Disperses W to N Moluccas.
Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as Sterna lunata.
Other name: Spectacled Tern.


Bridged Tern
Onychoprion anaethetus [Scopoli].
[O.a. anaethetus] S Ryukyu Island (Japan region) & Taiwan S thru the Philippines & Indonesia to Australia and Lord Howe Island & Norfolk Island (Tasman Sea, Australia region).
Non-breeding: Not fully established, presumed disperses to sea.
The proposed forms recognita and fuligula are included with O.a. antarcticus.
Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as Sterna anaethetus.
Other name: Brown-winged Tern.
Dr. Edward William Nelson (1855-1934), American ornithologist and founding President of the American Ornithologists’ Union.


**Sooty Tern**

*Onychoprion fuscatus* [Linnaeus],

[O.f. fuscatus] Islands off the coast of E USA from North Carolina S to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico W to Texas & E Mexico off the Yucatan peninsula and Belize to islands off N South America and S to NE Bahia (N Brazil) and islands off W Africa from Senegambia to the Gulf of Guinea including Principe and Ascension Island & St. Helena (S Atlantic).

[O.f. rubiosus] S Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean E to Ryukyu Islands (Japan region) and Greater Sundas & Philippines.


[O.f. oahuensis] Bonin or Ogasawara Islands, Marcus Atoll & Wake Island (NW Pacific) and Kure E to Moku Manu & anana (Hawaiian Islands) S thru C Pacific to Kiriritami (Line Islands).

[O.f. crissalis] Islands off W Mexico & Central America S to Galápagos Islands.


Non-breeding: Disperses to sea.

The proposed form *kermadeci* is included with *serratus*.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sterna fuscata*.

Other name: Wideawake Tern.


**River Tern**

*Sterna aurantia* [J.E. Gray].

Along some inland rivers in Iran, E Pakistan, Nepal & India to Myanmar, Yunnan (SW China), Cambodia, Thailand and the Mekong Delta (Vietnam). Non-breeding: Largely sedentary with some birds moving to the coasts of SE Asia.

Other name: Indian River Tern


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Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii [Montagu].

[S.d. dougallii] Nova Scotia to New York & Florida and S thru the Gulf of Honduras & West Indies to islands off N Venezuela and the Azores & NW Europe and S Somalia to Tanzania and S Cape Province (South Africa).

[S.d. arideensis] Seychelles S to Madagascar and E to Rodrigues Island (Mascarene Islands).


[S.d. bangsi] Arabian Sea, Ryukyu Islands (Japan region), coastal China & Taiwan S to Greater Sundas and E to S New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and possibly Fiji. It is also possible this is the form on Cocos (Keeling) Islands (SE Indian Ocean).

[S.d. gracilis] The Moluccas (C Indonesia) and Abrolhos Islands & Carnarvon Harbor (W Australia) and Northern Territory (Australia) E & S to Lady Elliot Island (Queensland, Australia).

Non-breeding: American populations possibly S to the N coast of South America and E Atlantic birds S to coasts of tropical W Africa between Guinea & Gabon mainly.

Dr. Peter McDougall (1777-1814), Scottish doctor who discovered the tern breeding in the Firth of Clyde in 1812.

Outram Bangs (1863-1932), American zoologist and collector.


White-fronted Tern
Sterna striata [Gmelin].

New Zealand and Stewart Island, Auckland Island, Chatham Islands and possibly Snares Island (New Zealand region) and Flinders Island & Cape Barren Island (off NE Tasmania)

Non-breeding: New Zealand populations some movement to the N. Australian populations disperses along coast of SE & E Australia.

The proposed forms aucklandorna & incerta are included with S. striata.


Black-naped Tern
Sterna sumatrana [Raffles].


Gregory Macalister Mathews (1876–1949), Australian ornithologist and collector.


South American Tern
Sterna hirundinacea [Lesson].
Coasts of S Peru & Espírito Santo (CE Brazil) S to Tierra del Fuego and Falkland Islands. Non-breeding: N to Ecuador & Bahia (Brazil).


Common Tern

Sterna hirundo [Linnaeus],

[S.h. hirundo] North America & West Indies S to N Brazil and the Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira and Ireland & Britain E thru N Russia to NW Siberia and S to the Mediterranean basin, Tunisia & Libya and E thru Turkey, Near East, Iraq & Iran & possibly as far as Pakistan and Mauritania, Senegambia, Guinea-Bissau & Gabon. Non-breeding: South America and W Africa S of Tropic of Cancer.


[S.h. longipennis] NE Siberia S to C Heilongjiang (NE China) and SW to Inner Mongolia & Shanxi (NC China). Non-breeding: SE Asia to Australia.


White-cheeked Tern

*Sterna repressa* [Hartert].

Red Sea S to Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia & Kenya and E thru the Persian Gulf & NW Indian Ocean to W coast of India. Non-breeding: Coasts of NE Africa & Arabian Sea to SW India & Laccadive Islands (Indian Ocean).


**Arctic Tern**

*Sterna paradisaea* [Pontoppidan].
Iceland, Faroe Islands, Ireland, Britain & W France thru Scandinavia E across Asia mostly N of the Arctic Circle to the Bering Strait and Kamchatka and Aleutian Islands & N Alaska to NW & NE Greenland and S to British Columbia & New York and NW Washington state. Non-Arctic Circle to the Bering Strait and Kamchatka and Aleutian Islands & N Alaska to NW & NE Iceland, Faroe Islands, Ireland, Britain & W France thru Scandinavia & S thru U.K., N Ireland, Scotland & E Ireland mainly thru Scandinavia & E across Asia mostly N of the Arctic Circle to the Bering Strait and Kamchatka and Aleutian Islands & N Alaska to NW & NE Greenland and S to British Columbia & New York and NW Washington state. Non-breeding: At sea off Australia and Antarctic seas including areas of pack ice.


al-Sirhan, A. 2008 The first records of Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* in Kuwait. *Sandgrouse* 30(2): 144-145.


The proposed form lengthy movements N to coasts of South America & South Africa.

Sterna vittata

Antarctic Tern

Sterna vittata [Gmelin].

[S.v. vittata] Prince Edward Island, Marion Island, Crozet Islands, Bouvet Island, Kerguelen Island (Indian Ocean). It is also possible this is the form on Heard Island (S Indian Ocean).

[S.v. tristanensis] Tristan da Cunha & Gough Island (S Atlantic).

[S.v. sanctitaupauli] Amsterdam Island & St. Paul Island (S Indian Ocean).

[S.v. georgiae] South Georgia Island (S Atlantic). It is also possible this is the form on South Orkney Island (Southern Ocean) and South Sandwich Islands & Bouvet Island (S Atlantic).

[S.v. gaini] South Shetland Islands (Southern Ocean) and presumed this form S to Marguerite Bay (Antarctic peninsula).

[S.v. bethunei] Stewart Island, Snares Island, Auckland Islands, Bounty Islands, Antipodes Islands & Campbell Islands (all New Zealand region) and Macquarie Island (Australia region). Non-breeding: Some populations remain in the vicinity of breeding grounds while others undertake lengthy movements N to coasts of South America & South Africa. The proposed form macquariensis is included with S.v. bethunei.


Kerguelen Tern
*Sterna virgata* [Cabanis].

*[S.v. virgata]* Prince Edward Island, Marion Islands & Crozet Islands (S Indian Ocean).

*[S.v. mercuri]* Kerguelen & Heard Island (S Indian Ocean).

Non-breeding: Sedentary.


Voisin, J-F. 1971. Description de *Sterna virgata mercuri* de l’Archipel Crozet [Description of the Kerguelen Tern that is found on the Crozet Islands]. *Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises* 54: 44-49.


Forster's Tern
*Sterna forsteri* [Nuttall].

British Columbia S to C Californian coast and E to S Ontario, Great Lakes & N Indiana and Long Island S to North Carolina and coast of Gulf of Mexico from Alabama to Tamaulipas (NE Mexico).

Non-breeding: S California S to Panama and North Carolina S to Gulf of Honduras.

Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798), a clergyman from Danzig who accompanied Cook as naturalist on his second world voyage during 1772 and 1773.

1st WP Record: [♂] 22nd October 1959. Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands), Iceland. Sigurður V. Jónatansson. Taken (BWP 4).


**Trudeau’s Tern**
*Sterna trudeaui* [Audubon].
Coast and interior of South America from SE Brazil & Uruguay S to Patagonia and Aconcagua to the Rio Cruces Sanctuary in Llanquihue Province (Chile). Non-breeding: Disperses to the coasts of South America as far N as S Peru and Rio de Janeiro.
Other name: Snowy-crowned Tern.
James de Berty Trudeau (1817-1887), artist, physician, collector and one time Confederate Army general.

Black-bellied Tern

*Sterna acuticauda* [J.E. Gray].

R Indus (Pakistan), Nepal & most of India E to W Yunnan (SW China) and S thru Myanmar, N Thailand, Laos, Cambodia & S Vietnam. Non-breeding: Sedentary.


Black-fronted Tern

*Chlidonias albostriatus* [G.R. Gray].

Interior parts of South Island, New Zealand. Non-breeding: Disperses to coasts of South Island & S North Island (New Zealand).

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Sterna albostriatus*.


Whiskered Tern

**Chlidonias hybrida** [Pallas].

[C.h. *hybrida*] C France, Biebrza Marsh (Poland), Senne (W Slovakia), Hortobagy National Park (Hungary), Ukraine, Volga-Ural steppes, Kazakhstan, Aral Sea, Turkestan, Kirghiz steppes to S Siberia, C & S China & Taiwan and E thru Turkey to Iraq & E Iran to N & C India & Indochina and S to Mediterranean and Morocco to Tunisia and Mali. Non-breeding: E & W Africa and Malaysia to Indonesia.

[C.h. *delalandii*] Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia & SW Cape Province (South Africa) and Madagascar.

[C.h. *javanicus*] Java, Togian Islands (Sulawesi), Moluccas & New Guinea and Australia & Tasmania. Treated by del Hoyo *et al*. 1996 to consist of six races: *hybrida*, *swinhoei*, *indicus*, *javanicus*, *sclateri* & *fluviatilis*.

Other name: Marsh Tern.


**White-winged Black Tern**

*Chlidonias leucopterus* [Temminck].


Other name: White-winged Tern.


Black Tern

Chlidonias niger [Linnaeus].

[C.n. niger] S Sweden E thru NC Russia to C Siberia and S to the Algarve (Portugal), S Spain, Sardinia, N Italy, Greece, Sennes (W Slovakia), W Turkey, Armenia & N Caucasus to Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Turkestan, Lake Balkhash, the Altai & W China. Non-breeding: SC Africa.


al-Sirhan, A. 2008 The first records of Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea and Black Tern Chlidonias niger in Kuwait. Sandgrouse 30(2): 144-145.


Previously treated as polytypic with forms E of Andes to NC Argentina. Non-Phaetusa simplex

Large-billed Tern

**Phaetusa simplex** [Gmelin].

E of Andes to NC Argentina. Non-breeding: Coasts & rivers of E South America. Previously treated as polytypic with forms simplex and chloropoda.
Inca Tern

*Larosterna inca* [Lesson].

Coasts of Peru & Chile S to Aconcagua. Non-breeding: Largely sedentary with some movement N to Ecuador.


