

# Caspian tern Taranui

*Hydroprogne caspia*



## Conservation status

Regional | Migrant  
National | Threatened: Vulnerable



## Main threats

Disturbance, introduced  
mammalian predators

A bit about me...



**Length:**  
50 cm



**Weight:**  
700 g



Migratory range

## Range:

Not known to breed in Otago, but occurs in coastal and estuarine habitats year-round (rarely inland). Also found across Aotearoa New Zealand and most of the world.

## Key Otago sites:



- Waikouaiti Estuary
- Aramoana
- Puketuroto / Hooper's Inlet



## New Zealand native

The largest species of tern, with a black cap and solid-red bill. Underparts are white and wings pale grey with dark tips. Non-breeding birds lose their black cap, leaving grey streaking around their eyes. Young birds have a duller orange bill. Call is a gravelly 'ark-ark'. Feeds almost entirely on fish caught by plunge-diving.

## Similar birds:



Black-fronted tern /  
tarapirohe



White-fronted tern / tara