

White-fronted tern Tara

Sterna striata striata



Conservation status

Regional | Threatened: Vulnerable
National | At Risk: Declining



Main threats

Disturbance, introduced
mammalian predators

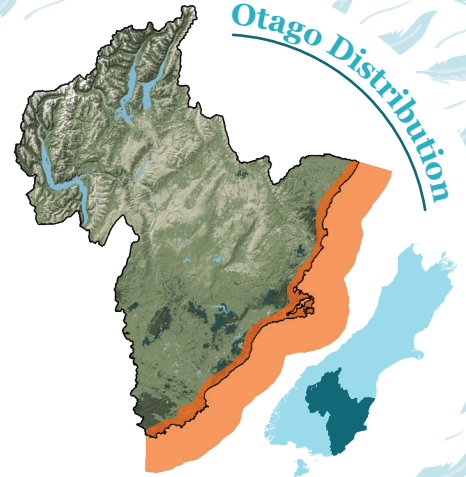
A bit about me...



Length:
42 cm



Weight:
160 g



 Range

Range:

Nests in colonies at several sites along the Otago coast, as well as across Aotearoa New Zealand. Forages in harbours and out to sea, either singly or in large flocks. Some birds are sedentary, while others migrate to Australia.

Key Otago sites:

- Oamaru Harbour
- Te Awa Ōtākou / Otago Harbour
- Aramoana Mole
- Tokatā / Nugget Point



New Zealand native

A streamlined white tern with a solid-black cap, long black bill and tiny legs. Its wings are long and tapered and tail deeply forked. White breasts can develop a pink flush. After breeding ends, the black cap recedes, similar to young birds. Young also have black-and-grey patterned upperwings. Gives harsh 'caw' calls.

Similar birds:



Black-fronted tern / tarapirohe



Caspian tern / taranui