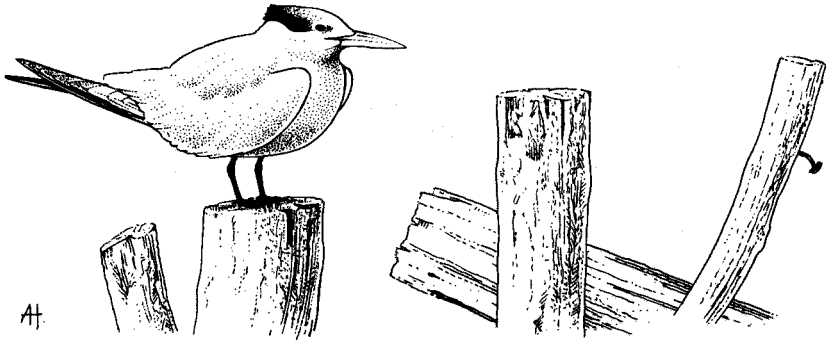


Identification of large terns



S. J. M. Gantlett
Illustrated by Alan Harris

Part 2. Photographs

This concluding part consists solely of photographs of the seven (or eight) species concerned, and is intended to be used in conjunction with the text, maps and paintings which appeared in Part 1 (*Brit. Birds* 80: 257-276).

continued ...



106. Adult Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, Mongolia, August 1979 (*Alan Kitson*), showing diagnostic blackish undersides to primaries



107. Adult winter Caspian Terns *Sterna caspia*, Kenya, January 1984 (*J. De Ridder*). Note streaked forehead, in front of and above eye, even in full non-breeding plumage

108. Adult summer Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, Black Sea, USSR, summer (*K. A. Judin*)





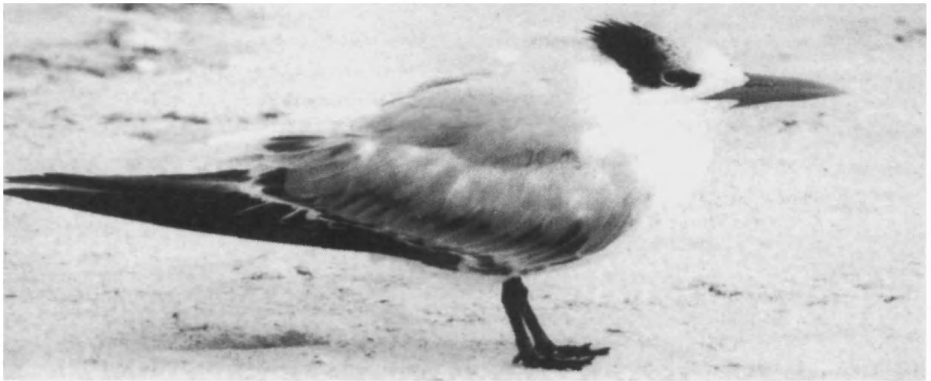
109. Adult summer Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*, California, USA, March 1984 (*Richard E. Webster*). compare underwing pattern with Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (plate 106), but beware darkening effect of age and wear on primaries of all terns

110. Adult winter Royal Terns *Sterna maxima* with two adult winter Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* and Laughing Gulls *Larus atricilla*, Florida, USA, October 1984 (*J. B. & S. Bottomley*). Note that the Royal Terns are much larger than the Sandwich Terns





111. First-summer Royal Terns *Sterna maxima*, California, USA, March 1984 (Richard E. Webster).



112. First-winter Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*, Florida, USA, December 1983 (Richard Coomber). At this age, tern bills may not yet be fully grown

113. Adult winter Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*, Florida, USA, December 1983 (Richard Coomber). Note difference in nape-feather positioning from plate 118.



114. Adult winter Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* (foreground) and adult winter Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*, Kenya, January 1984 (*Jan Mulder*). The Crested Tern shows the typical (though not always present) winter white edgings to rear crown feathers

115. Adult Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*, Namibia, South Africa, November 1982 (*David Tomlinson*). Note that this is nominate race, which has paler wings and mantle than *S. b. velox* of the Red Sea area. Interpretation of tern upperparts shade should always be treated with caution, however, owing to lighting and photographic effects. In breeding plumage, Crested Tern shows small, neat white forehead; this individual has streaks reaching to above the eye, however, and is not in full breeding plumage





116. First-year Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, November 1982 (David Tomlinson)

117. Adult winter Crested Terns *Sterna bergii* and one adult winter Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*, Kenya, January 1984 (Jan Mulder)

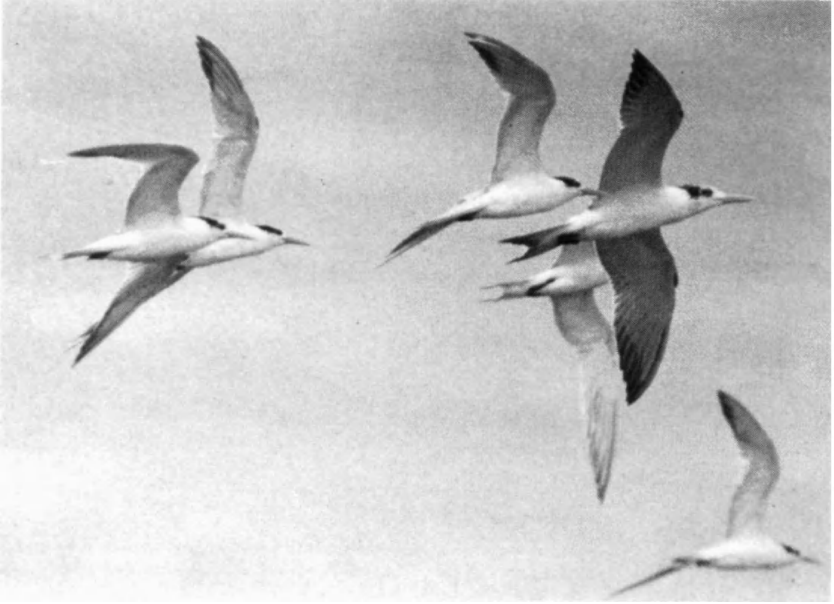




118. Adult summer Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* with Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis*, Banc d'Arguin, France, June 1974 (*Pierre Petit*). Originally published (*Brit. Birds* 77: 373, plate 139) as of uncertain identity, but now accepted as Lesser Crested Tern

119. Adult Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* with Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis*, Italy, August 1982 (*R. Mainardi*). Moulting into winter plumage has begun





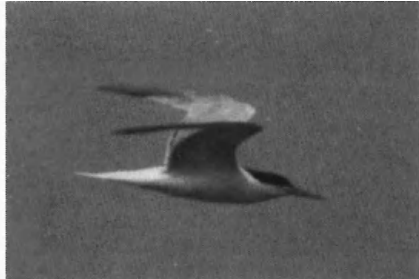
120. Adult winter Lesser Crested Terns *Sterna bengalensis* and one adult winter Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*, Kenya, January 1984 (J. De Ridder). Note larger size and much broader wings of the Crested Tern.

121. Winter Lesser Crested Terns *Sterna bengalensis*, Kenya, January 1984 (J. De Ridder)



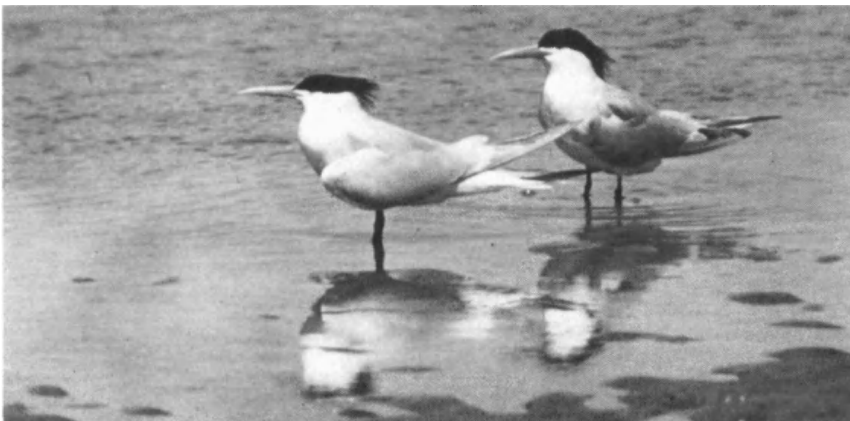


122. Adult and first-summer Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans* and two Forster's Terns *Sterna forsteri*, California, USA, September 1980 (*P. A. Doherty*). The variable number of dark outer primaries is evident and some of the birds are in obvious primary moult



123 & 124. First-summer (left) and adult summer (right) Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans*, California, USA, August 1985 (*J. A. Blincow*)

125. Adult summer Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans*, California, USA, April 1984 (*Richard E. Webster*). Note long, thin bill, especially on individual in full profile, and 'shaggy' nape plumes





126. Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans* with two Royal Terns *Sterna maxima*, California, USA, April 1984 (Richard E. Webster). Compare sizes, body bulk and bill shape



127. Adult winter Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans*, California, USA, September 1986 (Jonathan Alderfer)

128. Adult summer Cayenne Terns *Sterna (sandvicensis) eurynatha* at breeding colony, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, June 1987 (R. van Halewyn)





129. Adult summer Cayenne Terns *Sterna (sandvicensis) eurygnatha*, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, June 1987 (R. van Halewyn)

130. Adult winter Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, Florida, USA, October 1981 (J. B. & S. Bottomley)





131. First-winter Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, Netherlands, December 1983 (*Arnoud B. van den Berg*). Note strikingly grey rump and tail at this age, and that photograph was taken in December, when Sandwich Tern is rarely observed in Britain

Acknowledgments

Many photographers supplied prints or transparencies for possible use in this paper. They have already all been acknowledged by name (*Brit. Birds* 80: 275), but we should like once again to thank them for their help. Photographs not reproduced here were nevertheless very useful for reference purposes, and many are now held on file at the *British Birds* editorial office.

S. J. M. Gantlett, Ticklers, High Street, Cley-next-the-Sea, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7RR