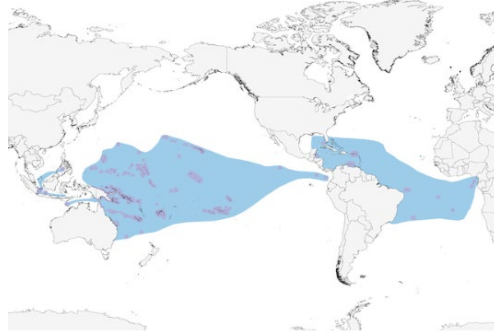
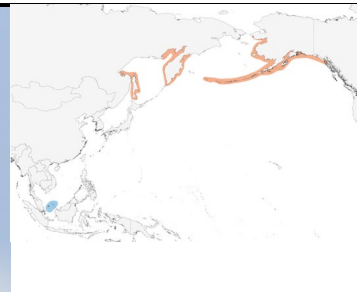
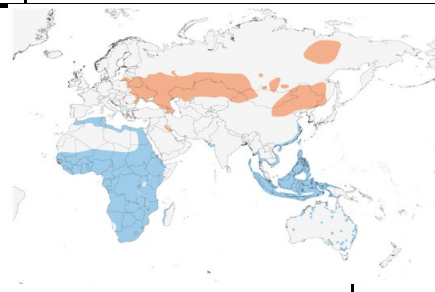
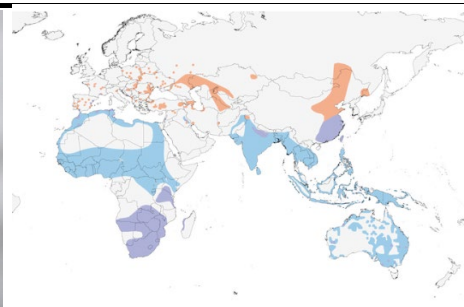


TERNs OF TEXAS
(and North America)

Category	SPECIES (Records accepted by TBRC)	MNEMONIC	BILL COLOR		BILL SIZE/SHAPE	SEASON IN TEXAS	ID TIPS	
			BASIC	ALTERNATE			STATIONARY	IN-FLIGHT
Large	Caspian	Prince Caspians black reign	dark red often with dusky tip	dark red often with dusky tip	thick, straight	year round	large size, red bill, black or salt-n-pepper cap, no "friar Tuck look"	bill color, large size, black undersides of primary tips, often looking down, shorter tail
	Royal	The Royal Carrot	carrot orange	reddish orange	straight	year round	numerous, carrot colored bill, "friar tuck look", "keerreet" call	bill color, limited dark underside of primaries, often looking forward, longer tail
	Elegant (14)	Rare & Elegant	carrot orange	reddish orange	long, drooping	extremely rare, may occur at any time	long, drooping orange bill, friar tuck look, shaggy rear cap	Don't try it
	Sandwich	Dipped in mustard	black with yellow tip usually	black with yellow tip	thin, straight	year round	Bill dipped in mustard, smaller than Royal, larger than medium terns	slender
Medium	Gull-billed	Gull "Bill"	black	black	thick & short	year round	thick black bill, long black legs, habitat - backwaters	stocky bill, direct flight, wingbeats slow & deep-both above & below body, over marshes
	Forster's	Pirate Eye Patch	black	orange with black tip	straight	year round	Orange bill & legs	2-toned (gray & white) upper
	Common	Common Carpal	orange-red with dark tip	black	straight	winter, migration	dark carpal bar, short legs, reddish bill & legs	1-toned (gray) upper
	Arctic (11)	Go to Alaska	black	dark red	small, straight	extremely rare, migration	very short legs, uniform, pale gray primaries	Not to be attempted by the faint of heart
Small	Black	Splotchy black migrant	black	black	small, straight	migration	black or dark gray body and head, often splotchy black & white	Splotchy black
	Least	Little Yellow-bill	black	yellow, often with black tip	thin, straight	summer	yellow bill, small size	small, delicate
Pelagic	Bridled	Texas Pelagics.com	black	black		fairly common pelagic	white forehead extends narrowly back over eye, dark back	Black over white
	Sooty	Smoke on the water	black	black	thin, straight	rare pelagic, rare on coast	black above, white below	Don't try it
	Roseate (2)	Good luck	black	dark red at base	thin, straight	extremely rare pelagic	tail projects well beyond primaries	Who'd believe you?
Skimmer	Black Skimmer	"Black Skimmer"	1/2 orange, 1/2 black	1/2 orange, 1/2 black	Lower mandible is longer	year round	The black tern with the weird bill	large open bill skimming along water
Noddies	Brown Noddy (27)	Texas Pelagics.com	 			 		
	Black Noddy (4)	Texas Pelagics.com						
Other Terns of North America	Aleutian	Not recorded in Texas	 	 	 			
	White-winged							
	Whiskered							
			Aleutian (Photo by Steve Kelling)		White-winged (Photo by Kalong Huang)		Whiskered (Photo by Ian Davies)	