

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*



Folk Name: (none)

Status: Migrant

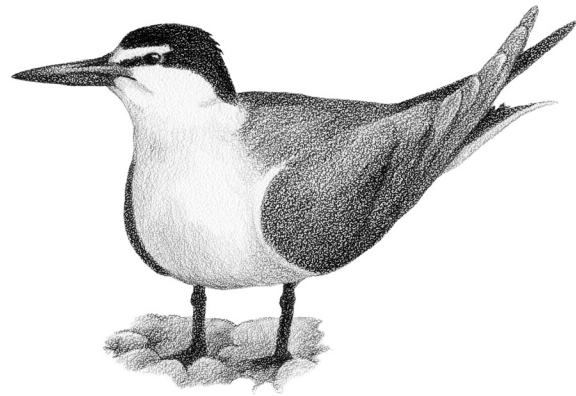
Abundance: Accidental

Habitat: Open water, lake edge

The Bridled Tern was added to the South Carolina bird list in 1885 when a specimen was collected at the town of Frogmore. It wasn't until 1971 that a specimen was collected in North Carolina in support of sight records, thus officially adding it to that state's list. Reports have increased in both Carolinas since these first state sightings. Today, it is fairly common off the coast of the Carolinas from May through October.

There have been three sightings of this pelagic bird in the Central Carolinas. Allen Bryan found a lone Bridled Tern in a parking lot in Shelby on September 22, 1989, just after Hurricane Hugo passed through the region. Taylor Piephoff reported finding two Bridled Terns at Lake Norman on the following day. One of these birds was an adult and the other was an immature bird.

Three local birders reported finding a Bridled Tern on Lake Wylie on September 9, 2004. The tern was observed



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associating with a Common Tern as it circled about the lake for almost 3 hours. It spent most of its time north of the Buster Boyd Bridge (Hwy. 49), moving back and forth between York County and Mecklenburg County. It is believed that this bird may have been forced inland by Hurricane Frances.