Species Profile

Environmental Conservation Online System

(http://www.fws.gov)

Least tern (Sterna antillarum)

(/docs/species_images/doc3710.jpg)

Kingdom: Animalia Class: Aves Order: Ciconiiformes
Family: Laridae

Listing Status: Endangered

Quick links: Federal Register (#status) Recovery (#recovery) Critical Habitat (#crithab) Conservation Plans (#conservationPlans) Petitions (#petitions) Life History (#lifeHistory) Other Resources (#other)

General Information

Least terns are the smallest member of the gull and tern family. They are approximately 9" in length. Unlike gulls, terns will dive into the water for small fish. The body of least terns is predominately gray and white, with black streaking on the head. Least terns have a forked tail and narrow pointed wings. Least terns less than a year old have less distinctive black streaking on the head and less of a forked tail.

States/US Territories in which the Least tern, interior pop. is known to or is believed to occur: Arkansas (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Arkansas) , Colorado (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Colorado) , Illinois (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Illinois) , Indiana (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Indiana) , Iowa (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Iowa) , Kansas (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Kansas) , Kentucky (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Kentucky) , Louisiana (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Louisiana) , Mississippi (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Mississippi) , Missouri (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Missouri) , Montana (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Montana) , Nebraska (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Nebraska) , New Mexico (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=New Mexico) , North Dakota (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=North Dakota) , Oklahoma (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Oklahoma) , South Dakota (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=South Dakota) , Tennessee (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Tennessee) , Texas (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=134&state=Texas)

US Counties in which the Least tern, interior pop. is known to or is believed to occur: View All (/speciesProfile/profile/countiesBySpecies.action?entityId=134)

USFWS Refuges in which the Least tern, interior pop. is known to occur: AUDUBON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AUDUBON WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BALD KNOB NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BIG MUDDY NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, BITTER LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ... Show All Refuges (javascript:toggleRefuges('on'))

For more information:
http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/endspecies/species/least_tern.htm (http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/endspecies/species/least_tern.htm)

Current Listing Status Summary

Status	Date Listed	Lead Region	Where Listed
Endangered	05/28/1985	Southeast Region (Region 4) (http://www.fws.gov/southeast/)	U.S.A. (AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA_Miss. R. and tribs. N of Baton Rouge, MS_Miss. R., MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TN, TX_except within 50 miles of coast)

» Federal Register Documents

Most Recent Federal Register Documents (Showing 5 of 5)

Date	Citation Page	Title
04/22/2008	73 FR 21643 21645	Notice of initiation of review; request for information on seven listed midwestern species (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/citation.result.FR.action?federalRegister.volume=2008&federalRegister.page=21643&publication=FR)
05/28/1985	50 FR 21784 21792	Interior Population of Least Tern to be Endangered; 50 FR 21784-21792 (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr957.pdf)
05/29/1984	49 FR 22444 22447	Interior Least Tern Proposed as End.; 49 FR 22444-22447 (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr842.pdf)
01/20/1984	49 FR 2485 2488	Findings on Pending Petitions & Description of Progress on Listing Actions; 49 FR 2485-2488 (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr787.pdf)

12/30/1982	47 FR 58454 58460	Review of Vertebrate Wildlife for Listing as End. or Thr. Species (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr650.pdf)

» Recovery

Recovery Plan Information Search (/roar/pub/ConfigureRecActionReport.do?path=ROAR+Custom+Queries.Public+Actions+AdHoc)

- Information Search FAQs (http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/ROAR_FAQs%2008-05-09_FINAL.pdf)

Current Recovery Plan(s)

Date	Title	Plan Action Status	Plan Status
09/19/1990	Least Tern (Interior Pop.) (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/900919a.pdf)	View Implementation Progress (/roar/pub/planImplementationStatus.action?documentId=600183&entityId=134)	Final

Other Recovery Documents (Showing 1 of 1)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Document Ty
04/22/2008	73 FR 21643 21645	Notice of initiation of review; request for information on seven listed midwestern species (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/citation.result.FR.action?federalRegister.volume=2008&federalRegister.page=21643&publication=FR)	• Notice 5-ye Review, Initiat

» Critical Habitat

No critical habitat rules have been published for the Least tern, interior pop..

» Conservation Plans

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) (learn more (/docs/conservation_plans/HCP_Incidental_Take.pdf)) (Showing 1 of 1)

HCP Plan Summaries
Duke Energy (Cinergy) (http://ecos.fws.gov/conserv_plans/PlanReport?plan_id=530&region=3&type=HCP&rtype=1)

» Petitions

Most Recent Petition Findings (Showing 1 of 1)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Finding
01/20/1984	49 FR 2485 2488	Findings on Pending Petitions & Description of Progress on Listing Actions; 49 FR 2485-2488 (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr787.pdf)	• Notice 12 month petition finding, Warranted but precluded

» Life History

No Life History information has been entered into this system for this species.

» Other Resources

NatureServe Explorer Species Reports (javascript:;) – NatureServe Explorer is a source for authoritative

conservation information on more than 50,000 plants, animals and ecological communtities of the U.S and Canada. NatureServe Explorer provides in-depth information on rare and endangered species, but includes common plants and animals too. NatureServe Explorer is a product of NatureServe in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Network.

ITIS Reports (javascript:;) – ITIS (the Integrated Taxonomic Information System) is a source for authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world.

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FWS Endangered Home (http://www.fws.gov/endangered/) | **ECOS Home (/ecos/indexPublic.do)** | **Contact Us (/ecos/helpdesk.do?version=SPECIES_PROFILE-1_3_9)**