



## Gull-billed Tern



## Sterne hansel

*Gelochelidon nilotica*

Similar in size to the Sandwich Tern but differs in having a short, strong, all-black bill, a slightly wider wing base, a shorter neck, a short, less forked tail and longer legs, but also in its hunting behavior. Does not normally dive but catches its prey with ease like the terns over water or vegetation.

Breeding adult: uniformly light gray on upper parts, rump and tail. Primary remiges gray with dark posterior margin often well defined from above and with clear border from below.

Non breeding adult: dark mask isolated behind the eye.

Juvenile: Thinner bill than adult, upper parts almost uniformly pale, light cap and slight mask behind the eye.

Nest: bowl on the ground, with or without vegetation.

Voice: Characteristic "ii-wik" low and rising. Alarm "vik-vik-vik" fast.

L. 35-42 cm; E. 76-86 cm.

Similar species: Sandwich Tern.

Egg



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Breeding adult



T.Blanchon

Fledgling



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## Chicks from 1 to 4 weeks

1<sup>st</sup> week



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2<sup>nd</sup> week



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3<sup>rd</sup> week



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4<sup>th</sup> week



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