



 **Common Tern**

 **Sterne pierregarin**

Sterna hirundo

Tern of medium size. Red legs. Very similar to the Arctic Tern but with a longer bill and head. The beak often seems arched. Longer legs. Also differs in flight by the longer head and neck, and the slightly wider wings set more in the middle of the body. Flies on the spot and dives abruptly to capture its preys.

Breeding adult: orange-red bill usually with black tip. Light grey underside. Tips of the tail not exceeding the tips of the wing. Dark and pointed spot (formed by 4 to 6 primaries) on the outside of the wing, vague in spring and more clear in summer. From below, diffuse and wide dark border on the outer primaries.

Non breeding adult: black bill. White forehead. Anterior part of the arm dark.

Young: shorter bill with orange root. Brownish yellow above. In flight, dark forewing margin, dark secondaries and diffusely dark hindwing margin. Grey rump.

Nest: bowl on the ground, possible presence of plants on the periphery.

Voice: " kitt " brief. "ket-ket-ket" fast, "kyerri-kyerri-kyerri" typical, "kriiiéé" stretched and dissyllabic.

L. 34-37 cm; E. 70-80 cm.

Similar species: Arctic Tern, Roseate Tern, White-cheeked Tern.

Nest with eggs



Breeding adult



Fledgling



Chicks from 1 to 4 weeks

1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

