



FACTSHEET

# Bridled Tern



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**Common Name:** Bridled Tern

**Scientific Name:** *Sterna anaethetus*

**Conservation Status:** Listed as Least Concern under ICUN (2014). All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

**Habitat:** Coastal habitat, Wetlands

**Body length:** 34-42 cm

**Weight:** 70-137 g

**Gestation period:** 28-30 days

**Number of young:** 1 (1 egg)

## Description:

The Bridled Tern has a black cap which extends down the back of its neck. It has a narrow white forehead stripe which sits above and well behind its eyes. Its wings and back are brownish black. It has off-white under surfaces. Its legs and bill are black and it has brown eyes and deeply forked tail.

## Diet:

Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, squid, insects.

## In the Wild:

The Bridled Tern is a common visitor to Rottnest to breed. It forms small colonies and nests on the ground usually in areas sheltered by plants, ledges or caves. This helps protect their nests from predators and the weather.

These birds search for food on their own or in small groups. They fly close to the surface of the sea dipping their head and breast in to catch their prey. They occasionally plunge at a steep angle into the water from 2-13m up, but they rarely go completely unwater.

## Threats:

- Pollution
- Human activity causing disturbance
- Predation by gulls and introduced species (foxes, cats)
- Storms

## DID YOU KNOW?

Bridled Terns are sometimes called Dog Terns as their call sounds a bit like a barking puppy.

