

# Sterna forsteri

*This species is complete.*

June 27, 2014 by Amber Lankford

Author(s) Expertise:

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<b>Sensitivity Factor</b>	<b>Sensitivity 1 - 7 (one being least sensitive, seven being most sensitive)</b>	<b>Confidence 1 - 5 (one being least sensitive, five being most sensitive)</b>
Generalist/Specialist	5 High	2 Poor
Physiology	1 Low	1 Very Poor
Life History	4 Medium-High	4 Good
Habitat	7 Extremely High	5 Very Good
Dispersal Ability	3 Medium	1 Very Poor
Disturbance Regimes	5 High	3 Fair
Ecology	5 High	3 Fair
Non-Climatic	6 High	4 Good
Other (weight)		

Sensitivity Score : 64 High

## Sensitivity Score

$100 * [(0.5 * (\text{Dispersal Distance} + \text{Dispersal Barriers}) + \text{Disturbance Regimes} + (0.5 * \text{Generalist/Specialist}) + \text{Physiology} + (0.5 * \text{Life History}) + \text{Sensitive Habitats} + \text{Ecology} + \text{Non-Climatic Stressors} + (\text{Other} * \text{Weight}) / 49 + (7 * \text{Weight})]$

Note: if Sensitive Habitats are identified, this factor automatically gets a value of seven, otherwise it remains zero.

Confidence Score : 2 Poor

## Confidence Score

The Confidence Score is an average of the Confidence column above.

Overall User Ranking: 5 High

**Common Name:**

Forster's tern

**Is this Species completed:**

Yes

Taxonomy

This is a description of the whole group

**Scientific Name:**

*Sterna forsteri*

**Geography:**

PNW

**Realm:**

Terrestrial

Freshwater

Marine

**Kingdom:**

Animal

**Phylum:**

Chordata

**Class:**

Aves

**Order:**

Charadriiformes

**Family:**

Laridae

**Genus:**

*Sterna*

**Global Rank:**

G5 (1996)

**Rounded Global Rank:**

G5 - Secure

**IUCN:**

Least Concern ver 3.1 - 2012

**US Endangered Species Act Code:**

Not listed

**Species Element Code:**

ABNNM08090

Generalist/Specialist

**Broadly, where does this species fall on the spectrum of generalist to specialist? :**

5

**Confidence in your assessment of the degree to which the species is a generalist or specialist:**

2 Poor

**Please specify which factors, if any, make the species more of a specialist:**

other dependencies

**Please further describe the relationships that make the species more of a specialist:**

Strongly associated with marsh habitat during breeding season

**Comments:**

Insectivorous/Piscivorous

**Citations:**

McNicholl, Martin K., Peter E. Lowther and John A. Hall. 2001. Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the *Birds of North America Online*: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/595>

Physiology

**Species' physiological sensitivity:**

1 low sensitivity

**Confidence in how physiologically sensitive the species is to climate change:**

1 Very Poor

Life History

**Species' reproductive strategy:**

4

**Confidence in your assessment of the species' reproductive strategy:**

4 Good

**Is the species polycyclic, iteroparous, or semelparous?:**

Iteroparous (reproduces in successive cycles--characteristic of K-strategists)

**Average length of time to reproductive maturity:**

2 yrs

**How many surviving young can an individual produce during a single reproductive**

**event under optimal conditions?:**

3

**How many reproductive events can an individual undergo in a single year under optimal conditions?:**

1

**Comments:**

Young are semi-precocial

**Citations:**

Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. Simon and Schuster, New York, New York, US. --- McNicholl, Martin K., Peter E. Lowther and John A. Hall. 2001. Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/595>

Sensitive Habitats

**Depends on the following sensitive habitat types:**

Coastal Lowlands/Marshes/Estuaries/Beaches

Wetlands/Vernal Pools

**Confidence in whether the species depends on the listed sensitive habitat types:**

5 Very Good

**Level of philopatry:**

low

**Comments:**

Breeding habitat: freshwater and saltwater marshes; marshy borders of lakes, streams and rivers; wetlands with significant amount of open water. Nesting sites are largely ephemeral and vary in quality from year to year. Migratory habitat: Along shorelines, similar to breeding habitat. Individuals abandon inland breeding habitats for more coastal non-breeding. Wintering habitat: Largely coastal. Wintering areas along California coast from the inland PNW.

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Dispersal Ability

**Maximum annual dispersal distance:**

5-25km

**Confidence in maximum annual dispersal distance:**

1 Very Poor

**Within the context of dispersal distance above, do barriers to dispersal exist?:**

1 None

**Confidence in barriers to dispersal exists:**

1 Very Poor

**Disturbance Regimes**

**How sensitive is this species to one or more disturbance regimes:**

5 more sensitive

**Confidence in how sensitive is this species on one or more disturbance regimes:**

3 Fair

**Please check all disturbance regimes upon which the species is sensitive:**

Flooding

Drought

**Please describe the disturbance regimes upon which the species is sensitive (frequency, timing, severity, duration):**

Flooding and storms can destroy nest and eggs. Prolonged heavy rain that causes water to rise also a risk. Drought may result in reduced breeding habitat

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**Ecological Relationships**

**Please specify which of the following (if any) are sensitive to climate change for this species:**

habitat

hydrology

**Confidence in how sensitive the species is to other effects of climate change on its ecology:**

3 Fair

**Which types of climate and climate-driven changes in the environment affect these aspects of the species' ecology?:**

precipitation

**How sensitive is this species? ecological relationships to the effects of climate change?:**

5

**Citations:**

Mcnicholl, Martin K., Peter E. Lowther and John A. Hall. 2001. Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of

Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online:  
<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/595>

Interacting non-climatic stressors

**To what degree do other, non-climate-related threats, to the species make it more sensitive to climate change?:**

6

**Confidence in the degree to which non-climate-related threats affect the species' sensitivity to climate change:**

4 Good

**Please check all of the stressors that make the species more sensitive to climate change:**

habitat loss or degradation

direct human conflict (including harvesting)

pollution

**Comments:**

Very sensitive to pollutants - resulting in reduced hatching success, reduced hatching mass, abnormalities, decreased chick survival, thinner eggshells, etc.

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Overall User Ranking

**In your opinion, how would you rank the overall sensitivity of this species to climate change?:**

5

**Confidence in your overall assessment of the sensitivity of this species to climate change:**

3 Fair

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**Source URL (retrieved on 2017-06-23 15:24):** <http://climatechangesensitivity.org/species/sterna-forsteri>

**Links:**

[1] <http://climatechangesensitivity.org/printpdf/984>