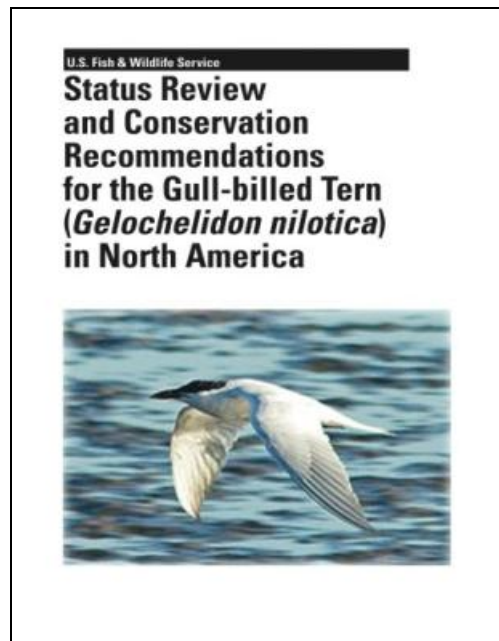


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(Lydia Legros)

STATUS REVIEW AND CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GULL-BILLED TERN (*GELOCHELIDON NILOTICA*) IN NORTH AMERICA

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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) is a medium-sized tern that breeds in small, scattered, often ephemeral colonies, typically in habitat devoid of vegetation near marine waters or saline lakes. In North America, the species breeds along the Atlantic coast south of New York, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific coast of California and Mexico. Its distribution has contracted from known historic range along the Atlantic Coast, but has expanded along the Pacific Coast. Range changes in Mexico are unknown due to fragmentary knowledge of historical colony locations, but some range contraction may have occurred. Two subspecies (*G. n. aranea* and *G. n. vanrossemi*) occur in North America. The current population of *G. n. aranea* in the United States is estimated to be approximately 3610 pairs, over 60 of which occur in Texas. The number of birds in Texas appears stable, but the number of individuals has declined in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and possibly Georgia. *G. n. vanrossemi* has 737 to 808 pairs breeding in western Mexico and southern California. Gull-billed Terns are designated as a Bird of Conservation Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *G. n. aranea* is designated as endangered, threatened or of management concern in nine states and *G. n. vanrossemi* is designated as a Bird Species of Special Concern in California. The main causes of population declines in North America are disturbance of nesting colonies, loss of natural nesting islands, and development or modification of upland foraging habitats. This species often nests on artificially deposited substrates, suggesting it could respond to management of breeding habitat. Management priorities for Gull-billed Terns are: (1) protection of known nesting colony sites; (2)...



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