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LESSER CRESTED TERNS STERNA BENGALENSIS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATLANTIC COAST

Lesser Crested Terns *Sterna bengalensis arabica* from breeding populations in the Middle East migrate south along the eastern coast of Africa. Migrants to southern Africa are largely confined to the northeast of the region from Mozambique (mostly Dec-Apr) to Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (mostly Jan-Mar; Ryan 1997; Parker 1999). Three records from the Eastern Cape are from February, March and May, respectively.

Lesser Crested Terns have been recorded west of Cape Agulhas on five occasions (Table 1). Four of these records were in March and in addition to

these records, Fraser (1993) mentioned an unconfirmed March record from the early 1980s at Buffelsbaai (34°19'S 18°27'E) on the eastern shoreline of the Cape Peninsula. Because the records from the Atlantic Ocean coastline of South Africa are mostly from March, it is possible that these consist of birds that continued to move west along the coast after the bulk of the migration has ceased.

Table 1. Records of Lesser Crested Terns on the South African Atlantic coast.

Tabel 1. Waarnemingen van Bengaalse Sterns langs de Atlantische kust van Zuid-Afrika.

Locality	Date	Source
Lambert's Bay (32°05'S 18°18'E)	1-22 Mar 1999	This note
Strandfontein, Cape Town (34°04'S 18°31'E)	16-dec-95	<i>Promerops</i> 231: 7.
Glencairn, Cape Town (34°09'S 18°26'E)	3 Mar 1993	Fraser (1993)
Kogelbaai (34°14'S 18°51'E)	18 Mar 1997	<i>Promerops</i> 231: 7
Hermanus (34°25'S 19°15'E)	Mar-Apr 1976	Hockey <i>et al.</i> (1989)

Fraser M. 1993. Lesser Crested Tern at Glencairn. *Promerops* 203: 14.

Hockey P.A.R., Underhill, L.G., Neatherway, M. & Ryan, P.G. 1983. Atlas of the birds of the southwestern Cape. Cape Town: Cape Bird Club.

Ryan P.G. 1997. Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*. In: Harrison J.A., D.G. Allan, L.G. Underhill, M. Herremans, A.J. Tree, V. Parker & C.J. Brown (eds) The atlas of southern African birds, 1: 474. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.

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Vincent L. Ward

*Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and Avian Demography Unit,
University of Cape Town Rondebosch 7701, South Africa, vward@adu.uct.ac.za*