

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Sterne hirundo – Flusseeschwalbe – Visdiefje - Fisktarna

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant



Typically the first few appear during early April, prior to a rapid build up of numbers. Ternery Pool often attracts large roosts at high tide and especially overnight, with numbers peaking around early/mid May. A colony has nested on the islands of Ternery Pool in most years since at least 1973, with an average of just over 60 pairs per year. In recent years nesting has also been at Castle Water and at the Quarry. The peak total was 341 pairs in 2010 when an estimated 500 young were fledged. Numbers of breeding pairs have been consistently higher since the late 1970s. Generally speaking, the Common Tern has been quite successful

at raising young here, although some years have produced poor results or total failure due to problems such as predation of eggs and chicks by Fox or Badger. Returning migrants often increase numbers between early August and early September. Few are normally seen after mid September.

Peak Counts

565, 13 May 1996 (dusk roost, Ternery Pool)

520+, 26 Aug 1981 (evening roost, Ternery Pool)

500+, 3 Sep 1980 (dusk roost, Camber) and 16 May 1970

Early Dates

17 Mar 2005

25 Mar 2001

29 Mar 1993

Late Dates

3 Nov 1984

1 Nov 1999

24 Oct 2004



Adult



Old chick



Young chicks in nest

Breeding Common Tern at Rye Harbour

